

BI WOMEN



VOLUME 7 NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY / MARCH 1989

Midnight Caller: Who's Killing Whom?

by Lucy Friedland

On December 13, NBC-TV, nationally, and through its affiliate WBZ-TV (Channel 4), locally, went ahead and aired the offending episode of *Midnight Caller* featuring a crazed bisexual man with AIDS. In response to protests from bi, gay and lesbian political action groups in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Boston, the script had been revised to eliminate the murder of the bisexual man in the end; however, a more negative portrayal of a bisexual man can scarcely be imagined.

The character "Mike Barnes" had developed AIDS and, with full knowledge of the consequences, engaged in unprotected sex with numerous partners, men and women. The man was depicted as a psychotic hedonist who believed he could only live fully by denying the possibility of his own death or anyone else's. In the meantime, he had transmitted the HIV virus (the virus that causes the breakdown of the immune system leading to AIDS) to two women, one of whom was pregnant. The "hero" of the story, Jack Killian, a radio talk show host, managed to prevent one of the women from killing Mike in revenge. The ending was left unresolved with Mike disappearing into the night, traumatized at the attempt on his life.



cont. on pg. 3

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



Present at the 11/14/88 Mtg: Stephanie B., Heidi F., Ann G., Rebecca G., Robyn O., Lucy F., Laura S.,

MAIL PICK-UP & DISTRIBUTION:

Ann G. will be picking up the mail temporarily. Ad will be put in the newsletter to find others to share or take over this task.

INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS:

Intro. facilitation will be done on a rotating basis. Presently compiling a list of women interested in facilitating.

1989 ECBN CONFERENCE:

Workshop, place and targeted weekend update. The BBWN 3rd Annual Fund Raiser will take place at the conference. Possibility of asking the Men's Network to share in work and profits discussed.



NABN REPRESENTATIVES:

NABN is looking for 1 or more women to represent BBWN on its steering committee. They are also looking for someone who would like to be the contact for Gay/Lesbian organizations. Those women interested should come to the next C.C. mtg. After general discussion a secret vote will be taken. 2 Reps will be elected.

T-SHIRTS & BUTTONS:

Laura is divesting herself of the T-Shirt position. An ad will be put in the newsletter and the Action letter. Lucy will order more buttons from CA. We need to get 2 women to be in charge of Bi merchandise.



NEWSLETTER:

We discussed putting 'do-it-yourself' Bisexual Pride graphics/stickers in the newsletter. It was decided they would go into a future issue.

MEN ON THE MAILING LIST:

So far the votes are running in favor.



BY (I) LAWS:

Robyn will bring old by-laws to next C.C. mtg in order to review and make any amendments/suggestions.



READERS FORUM



Greetings from Rochester N.Y.. I miss all of you beautiful women in BBWN. Since I moved here from Boston last year I've thought of you often. Keep those newsletters coming. We have started a new group here. It is called RBWN for "Rochester Bisexual Women's Network." We have about 25 paid members so far. There are two support groups that meet regularly. We have developed a wonderful logo and printed it on clothing and buttons. We "womaned" a table at the Gay Pride Picnic here this summer. We are having our first annual holiday party soon. We have been endorsed by several local organizations. So you will definitely be hearing more about RBWN in the future.

love,



Dear Sisters,

I am a 35 year old, married mother of two boys. I am bisexual, although I've never had a relationship with a woman. I've always hidden this part of myself until recently. I've told a few close women friends who I trust and know will accept this.

I desperately need some sort of support group or some way to connect with others who feel the way I do. Many times I have felt very much alone, as though I'm the only one who feels this way. Sometimes I have this strong need that has never been fulfilled. There has always been this part of me that I must hide, and this is very frustrating. But recently I've begun to realize that I'm not alone. There are others like myself!

A friend told me about your newsletter and suggested that I subscribe. Please send me information about subscribing.

I'm so glad I found you!

In Peace -

Miramar, FL



TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
COUNSELING, PSYCHOTHERAPY
CONSULTATION & TRAINING

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Midnight Caller:

cont. from pg. 1

Regardless of NBC's claim that Mike Barnes is not representative of *all* bisexuals or people with AIDS, the fact remains that this particular representation of a bisexual man is perhaps the first ever to reach a large American TV audience. The residual message is clear. Bisexuals, as *exemplified* by the antihero, are untrustworthy, irresponsible, selfish, and don't practice safe sex.

We don't think we can afford to let these negative images of bi's go unanswered. We are living in dangerous times. Violence against lesbians, gays and bi's is already on the rise. The last thing we need is rampant images of bisexuals run amok. The last time the mass media decided to focus on bisexuals was when *Newsweek* magazine declared us the "pariahs of the '80s" (7/13/87). The *Midnight Caller* show perpetuates the hysterical notion that bisexuals are a menace to society.

Let's begin to undo this damage. Let's write to these media moguls and tell them that we don't appreciate their exploiting us for their commercial gain. Let's tell them what we're really like - a diverse group of people with a whole range of lifestyles. Some of us have multiple sexual partners, some of us are monogamous, and some of us are celibate. Many of us are educating ourselves and others about safe sex and putting these techniques into practice. Only through sane and sympathetic portrayals of bi's (and gays) in the media can we hope to gain any ground in the struggle against AIDS and bi- and homophobia.

The time has come for bisexual voices to be heard. We can't let corporations like NBC (which happens to be owned by General Electric, the largest manufacturer of nuclear weapons) to reverse the gains bisexuals have made in coming out, in forming networks, in combatting AIDS. We haven't seen the last of Lorimar Productions' handiwork either. Word has it that a show is in the works about a lesbian child molester, and they've bought the rights to Randy Shilts' book *And the Band Played On*, a journalistic account of the early history of AIDS in the U.S. (As Z. of BBMN said in the last newsletter, "God knows what they'll do with that one!")

Locally, BiCEP (the Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics) in coalition with Mass ACT OUT (a gay/lesbian political action group) and Rock Against Sexism, organized a demonstration in front of WBZ the night of the show. Ironically, the demo was covered by WBZ in its 11:00 p.m. news. The groups, along with ACT UP (an AIDS activist group) are orchestrating a letter-writing campaign aimed at NBC, Lorimar and WBZ. You can help. Every letter counts. Please write or call any or all of the following media outlets to register your disapproval of *Midnight Caller*. It's not too late. Give 'em hell. Thanks a lot.

Who's Killing Whom? 3

Brian Pike
Vice President, Current Drama Programming
Room 228, Administration
NBC-TV
3000 West Alameda Avenue
Burbank, CA 91523
(818) 840-4892



Robert Singer Robert Butler Executive Producers Midnight Caller Productions Lorimar Studios #203B Producers' Building 3970 Overland Avenue Culver City, CA 90232 (213) 280-8000	& Francine Achbar Program Manager WBZ-TV 1170 Soldiers Field Rd. Boston, MA 02134 (617) 787-7087
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A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

For Info, Send

SASE To:
Gibbin Publications
P.O. Box 20917
Long Beach, CA 90801-3917

Just when you thought it was safe
to go back into the bathtub...
Give 'em hell. Thanks a lot.



COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



Present at the 1/9/89 Mtg were: Alix B. (from Conn.), Heidi F., Laura S., Lisa W., Robyn O., Stephanie B., Ann G.

POST OFFICE BOX & MAILING LIST:

Our current keeper of the mailing list, presented a proposal dealing with confidentiality and responsibility of picking up mail and maintaining the mailing list. She felt splitting the job of picking up the mail and distributing it has been working well.* She will be writing up a job description outlining what she does in order to demystify the process and help the next woman in line (She will be leaving this position as of late March - See Help Wanted blurb) (on pg. 5)

How women are chosen for these positions in light of the responsibility and confidentiality was discussed.

BI's in the NEWS:

Alix is donating articles to the Archives

NABN ELECTION:

Laura Sachs and Robyn Ochs were elected BBWN representatives to the National Bi Network. Both are also currently ECBN reps and will remain so for the time being, until we can elect new ECBN members at the next C.C. mtg.

The Bi WOMEN QUESTIONNAIRE:

The 1989 Questionnaire was gone over, and will be mailed with the next newsletter.

BiLAWS:

Were passed out, and will be amended at the next C.C. mtg.

*The job of maintaining the mailing list and picking up the mail has been split. We currently have only one individual picking up the mail and distributing it. We need at least one other person to help pick up and distribute the mail!!



NEWSLETTER STAFF

CO-EDITORS:

LAURA SACHS
STEPHANIE BERGER

LAYOUT:

LAURA SACHS
ANN GOGLIA
STEPHANIE BERGER

TYPISTS:

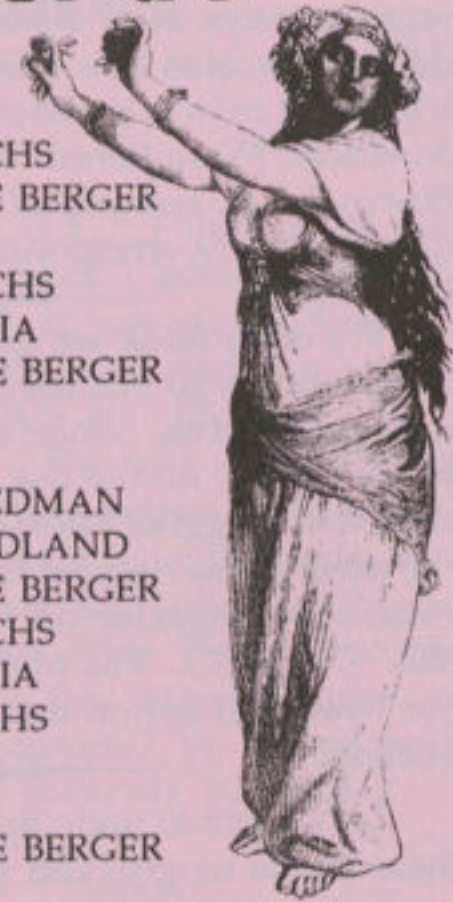
HEIDI FRIEDMAN
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STEPHANIE BERGER
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CONTRIBUTORS:

LUCY FRIEDLAND
ANN GOGLIA
STEPHANIE BERGER

ROBYN OCHS
LAURA SACHS
LYNNE LEVINE



We wish the many wonderful women who helped out the Network in December and January lots of warm fuzzies and warm company for the upcoming months. (Or at least until the next newsletter)

Pam L.
Claire M.
Sue W.
Sharon G.
Lucy F.
M.C.D.
Heidi F.

Ann G.
Robyn O.
Laura S.
Ellen B.
Liz N.
Lisa W.
Alix B.

Sophie G.
Sharla C.
Marjorie B.
Jackie S.
Liz H.
Stephanie B.
Susan C.

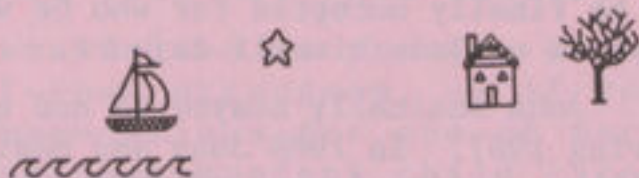


WHERE DO WE LIVE?



Every other month close to a thousand newsletters are mailed by an energetic group of BBWN volunteers at our infamous Volunteer Night. Where do these newsletters go? Following is a breakdown of the geographical distribution of people on the BBWN mailing list.

Massachusetts:

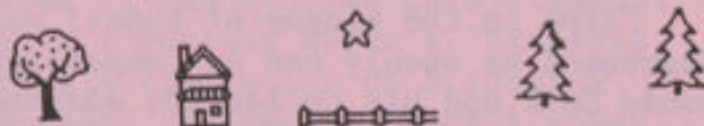


Cambridge 58, "Boston" 46, Somerville 39, Jamaica Plain 23, Arlington 14, Brookline 13, Amherst 13, Dorchester 12, Waltham 12, Watertown 11, Newton 11, Northampton 10, Medford 9, Brighton 7, Worcester 5, Beverly 4, Lowell 4, W. Roxbury 4.

3 each to: Framingham, Acton, Bedford, Allston, Chestnut Hill, and Malden.

Also on our Massachusetts list are people in the following towns: S. Hadley, Florence, Hatfield, Leverett, Easthampton, Haydenville, Springfield, Williamstown, S. Deerfield, Montague, Sunderland, Ashby, Littleton, Clinton, N. Oxford, Holliston, Marlboro, Maynard, Natick, Lincoln, Wayland, Wakefield, Swampscott, Nahant, Gloucester, Marblehead, Newburyport, Peabody, Salem, Hingham, Mansfield, Scituate, Sharon, Pittsfield, Roslindale, Chelsea, Waban, Quincy, Wollaston, Milton, Wellfleet, Bridgewater, Abington, Vineyard Haven, Nantucket, Hyannis, Cotuit, Truro, Provincetown, Attleboro, and Norton.

Other States:



New York 46, Connecticut 45, California 44, New Jersey 19, Pennsylvania and Illinois 16 each, New Hampshire 13, Michigan 14, Maine 11, Rhode Island, Florida, and Washington 9 each, the District of Columbia and Wisconsin 8 each, Maryland, Vermont, Virginia, and Texas, 7 each, Ohio and Missouri 6 each, Indiana and Iowa 5 each, Minnesota, Colorado and Oregon 4 each, Kansas, New Mexico and Hawaii 3 each. There are also one each in Delaware, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Nevada, and Arkansas.

International:



We send 12 newsletters to Europe, 2 to Australia (yes, Jean - one of them is yours), and 15 to Canada.

As you can see, being involved with maintaining the mailing list allows you to get a fascinating window on the ever-expanding Bi World!



--Submitted by Robyn Ochs



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



BBWN needs a member with access to a Macintosh computer to assume responsibility for maintaining our mailing list and database. Confidentiality is a major concern - so respondents should have close connections with BBWN. We have the software and will train you if you have never been personally introduced to a Macintosh. We need YOU by April first!!!



HELP WANTED



BBWN is looking for one or more individuals interested in serving on the ECBN Steering Committee (East Coast Bisexual Network) as representatives of BBWN.

ECBN's major functions are: funding, retreats, and conferences. This involves meeting twice a year (once at the retreat and once at the conference), and various telephone conferences during the year as needed. Terms to be one or two years. If interested call BBWN (247-6683) or come to the next CC meeting, Monday March 13. If you call the Network - please address your message to the Coordinating Committee.

This issue commemorates my two year anniversary as an editor of Bi Women. (YEAH! RAH!) February/March 1987 was the first issue I ever officially co-edited. I have seen many positive things happen in the Bi World these past two years. I've had the great opportunity to establish some life-long friendships with both BBWN & BBMN persons, seen both the conferences and retreats flourish; new networks being born and growing. I am hearing from new women discovering the networks and (usually) greater happiness in their lives!!

Just as life moves and flourishes, so too, does it pass. This issue contains the first article I have ever written commemorating the death of someone I met through the Bi community. I originally met John Horne in October, 1985 at a preconference (1986) meeting in Rhode Island. He happens to be the first person I have ever known to die from the complications of AIDS. Some of his story follows.

--Laura Sachs, Co-Editor



JOHN HORNE

Nov. 12, 1955 - Jan. 2, 1989

John was born in Boston, MA. he was an Air Force brat and travelled extensively when he was young. His family finally settled in Dayville, CT.

He served in the Air Force for two years as an air traffic controller and left at the age of twenty. He returned to Connecticut and in 1976 entered hairdressing school, where he met his future wife Madie.

John left Connecticut for the gay lifestyle in Los Angeles, keeping in touch with Madie the entire time he was in California. While there he worked as a chauffeur for an interior designer and was inspired to enter this field. Before John returned to Connecticut in July 1977, he was in touch with Madie, told her he was tired of the gay lifestyle and proposed to her.

When he came back, they married and John entered the University of Connecticut where he studied interior design. Upon graduating in 1984, John was self employed as an interior designer. He worked up until the time he was diagnosed with AIDS in August, 1986.

After the diagnosis, John and Madie moved to Tucson, Arizona where they resided until John's death.

John tried to cope with his illness in a variety of ways: traditional medicine, vegetarian diets, homeopathic medicine, AZT (too toxic for his system), meditation (which he found to be the most useful), and listening to music. Part of John's outlook on life was to live life to its fullest. He never stopped doing things that brought him enjoyment.

In April 1987 John went to Los Angeles to an "AIDS Mastery" weekend. The AIDS Mastery teaches a person who has the disease how to deal with their anger and fear; how to express feelings, and how to deal with the lack of spirituality in one's life. The AIDS Mastery also teaches you how to live your life fully, whether or not you have the disease.

John led an AIDS/ARC workshop at the Fourth Annual Conference on Bisexuality in May 1987. John had discovered the Boston Bisexual Mens Network in 1985. When he did he felt at home inside; to be finally accepted for who he was. He didn't have to explain himself anymore.

John basically stayed in and around his home during 1987. In 1988 John and Madie did some travelling, and in August of 1988 John came to the Retreat. In the latter half of 1988 John's condition worsened and he passed away this year.



The following was said by Minister Alexander Meek, Jr., at John's funeral,

"We chose different vocations but we represent the same zest for life - the same openness to change - the same willingness to risk. And John's desire to make the world a more beautiful place is a fitting goal for anyone's life effort. And his message to you and me was simple and direct: Keep on loving; never stop being kind; always reach out to others generously."

(Later in the ceremony)

"Since the dawn of history, we humans have been surrounded by travails - some natural and some of our own doing. Every age has had its plagues and disasters; and the scourge of one generation has been overcome by succeeding generations."

"The artist and the scientist share a commitment in common that passes by most of us. They refuse to accommodate. They refuse to make easy adjustments. They are driven men and women. Their vision is sharper, clearer, and less clouded."

"AIDS is the plague of today; and it must be addressed as openly and as compassionately as Jonas Salk and his colleagues addressed Polio. The cure will not be found by turning away and hiding from the truth and the cruelties, by trying to see things as clearly as possible."

"The artist and the scientist live on the boundary, and there find the courage to be, and the will to do!"

"John's life was lived on the boundary too, and there is where he came to know who he was."

If you wish to contact Madie Horne please do so at the following address:

Madie Horne
2424 South Cottonwood Lane, #69
Tucson, AZ 85713



ATTENTION!

Important Information

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE CONFERENCE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO MAY 13-14, 1989. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS ACCORDINGLY. WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS THIS MAY HAVE CAUSED.

Also, if you would like to provide housing for out-of-town attendees, or if you have any recommendations for one or more persons to provide competent child care at the conference, please write to: Conference/BBMN, PO Box 1645, Cambridge, MA 02238. Thanks very much.



BOOK REVIEW

A REVIEW OF HEROTICA: A COLLECTION OF WOMEN'S EROTIC FICTION, edited by Susie Bright, Down There Press, 1988.

by Lynne Levine

Unlike most of the other erotica anthologies written by and for women, which have tended to be either strictly lesbian or heterosexual in nature, Herotica represents a true mix of sexual orientations. As a bisexual woman, I took great delight in turning the page to each new story, not knowing whether the object of the protagonist's lust would be male, female, both, or in the case of one story in this book, undefined. Three of the stories have bisexual themes. There is a fantasy about a "bisexual housewife" having a little fun on a camping trip, and a personal testimonial from a woman who at one point comments that "One aspect of being bisexual is that people on both sides of the fence assume I'm one of them." (p. 131)

Editor Susie Bright did an excellent job of compiling these stories. They are well-written, avoiding for the most part the over-used cliches that often plague erotic writing. This varied collection includes numerous seduction and wish-fulfillment fantasies, masturbation, bondage, fun with food, gender-bending, and lust between an earth woman and an alien. Needless to say, I was never bored while reading this book.

Herotica can, hopefully, be found at a woman's bookstore near you, or you can send \$10.00, postage paid, to Down There Press, P.O. box 2086, Burlingame, CA 94011-2086.

LAURA BERKSON PERFORMANCES:

Feb, 25 (Sat) Opens for the Washington Sisters, 8pm. Portland, Maine. Call Cheryl Smith of Pine Cone Productions at (207) 793-4343 for location & tix info.

March 3 (Fri) Opens for Patty Larkin, 8 pm, Watch City Coffeehouse, First Parish Unitarian Church, 50 Church Street, Waltham. Call Bob Weiser at 647-1055 for more info.

March 4 (Sat) House Concert, 7:30pm, 101 Aberdeen Ave., Cambridge. Call Russ Cohen 864-5049 for more info.

March 31 (Fri) Wheaton College Women's Music Festival, Norton, Ma. Call Nicki at (508) 285-7112 for Information

Rite Wings: The Golden Rule of the Sun - a multimedia performance based on the Dade County Gay Rights Referendum. 8 pm on Tues, Feb 14th through Sat, Feb. 18th, 3 pm on Sat, Feb 19th, in Tower Auditorium, Mass. Art. 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. Tix \$8/ Glad Day, Out of Town Tix, Ticketron & the door. Call 232-1555 x 355 for more info.

MARCH FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY & WOMEN'S LIVES

APRIL 9, 1989 in Washington, D.C.

To get involved in organizing for the March or would like general information, call Boston NOW at 782-1056

ONGOING:

TUESDAYS: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP GROUP 7:30-10 pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Str, Central Square. All women welcome.

February's Topics are as follows:

Feb. 7th: *Being in a Committed Relationship and Being Bisexual*

Feb 14th: *Sex and Seduction*

Feb 21st: *Unrequited Love*

Feb 29th: *Breaking up*

Call the Women's Center mid Feb. for March's discussion topics 354-9907

WEDNESDAYS: AL-ANON GROUP for BISEXUAL

ADULT CHILDREN of ALCOHOLICS 7:30 pm at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge 259-1559

Second WEDNESDAY of each month: GAY COMMUNITY NETWORKING BREAKFASTS, 8 am, at CLUB CAFÉ (Corner of Columbus Ave. & Berkeley Str.) Breakfasts are free. Call 437-5870 for dates and questions.



Feb. 6 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St, Central Square, 7:30 pm. Come find out about the BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome! Tell your friends! Call 247-6683 for more info.

Feb. 9 (Thurs) Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics (BiCEP) Mtg, 7:30 pm, Harvard Yard, Bolyston Hall, Room will be posted. BiCEP works to increase Bi visibility in the straight and gay Communities, and works in the struggle for Bi & Gay Liberation. All women and men welcome. For more info call Lucy 734-9348.

Feb 10 (Fri) Oy Vey! Jewish Bisexual Group Shabbat Dinner, 7 PM. Call 247-6683 & leave message for Heidi or Rebecca. They will get back to you with location & directions. Note: All return messages will be discreet.

Feb. 11 (Sat) Lavender Hearts: Joyous Celebration of Lesbian Romance & Erotica, with Storyteller Jennifer Justice, 7 & 9 pm, dance at 11pm, in addition to a special new erotic slide show. First Church Cong., 11 Garden str., Cambridge Tix show & dance \$9 adv/\$10 at door, available at New Words, Red Books and Glad Day.

Feb. 11 (Sat) Kate Clinton, 8 pm at Sanders Theater, Cambridge St. & Quincy St., \$14adv/\$15door. Benefit for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. Call 661-1252 for tix & other info.

Feb. 12 (Sun) ECBN Conference Meeting, 6 pm, Harvard Yard, Bolyston Hall. Rm 2B. New faces welcome. Any amount of time and help needed.

Feb. 14 (Tues) VALENTINES DAY. Hug a friend!

Feb. 14 (Tues) Rite Wings: The Golden Rule of the Sun - a multimedia performance based on the Dade County Gay Rights Referendum open at Tower Auditorium, Mass. Art. See For Your Information, for more details

Feb. 17 (Fri) Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, RI, special Valentines Dance with the band Bridges, 8-11pm at Body Lab, 568 S. Main Str. Admission \$5. Chem & smoke free. Call Chris (401) 431-0822 for info.



Feb. 18 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch. Come join us for yummy food and good company. Meet under the arch in Chinatown @ 10:45, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & men welcome. Call 247-6683 if you have questions.



Feb. 18 (Sat) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston, 8-11pm at the Unitarian Universalist First Church of Jamaica Plain, at the corner of Center & Eliot Str. Admission \$5. Chem & smoke free. Call Barbara at 625-9166 for more info.

Feb. 24 (Fri) Ronnie Gilbert & Tom Paxton 8 pm at the Sanders Theater. Tix & other info see Clinton Feb. 11th.

Feb. 24 (Fri) Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, RI. See Feb 17th for more details.

Feb. 27 (Mon) Yes, folks it's a non-newsletter Volunteer Night at, you guessed it, Robyn's house. 7:30 pm. Call BIS-MOVE for directions.

Feb. 27 (Mon) April/May Newsletter Submission Deadline.

March 4 (Sat) Gay Contra Dancing in Boston. See Feb. 18th for more details.

March 8 (Wed) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY. Check your local women's bookstore or newspaper, for whats going on in your area.

March 10 (Fri) Oy Vey! Jewish Bisexual Group Shabbat Dinner, 7 PM. Call 247-6683 & leave message for Heidi or Rebecca. They will get back to you with location & directions. Note: All return messages will be discreet.

March 13 (Mon) Coordinating Committee Mtg, 7 pm, Harvard Yard, Bolyston Hall, Rm 2B. ALL women Welcome. Among other hot topics we will be discussing BBWN Bi-laws and ECBN representatives.

March 17/18/19 Pat Humphries & Magpie double bill at Passims, Cambridge Fri/Sat at 8&10:30. Sun radio show at 3 (will be broadcast live!) & at 8pm. Call 492-7669 for more info.



March 18 (Sun) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch. See Feb 18th for more details.

March 20 (Tues) Vernal Equinox. (We're almost there folks!)



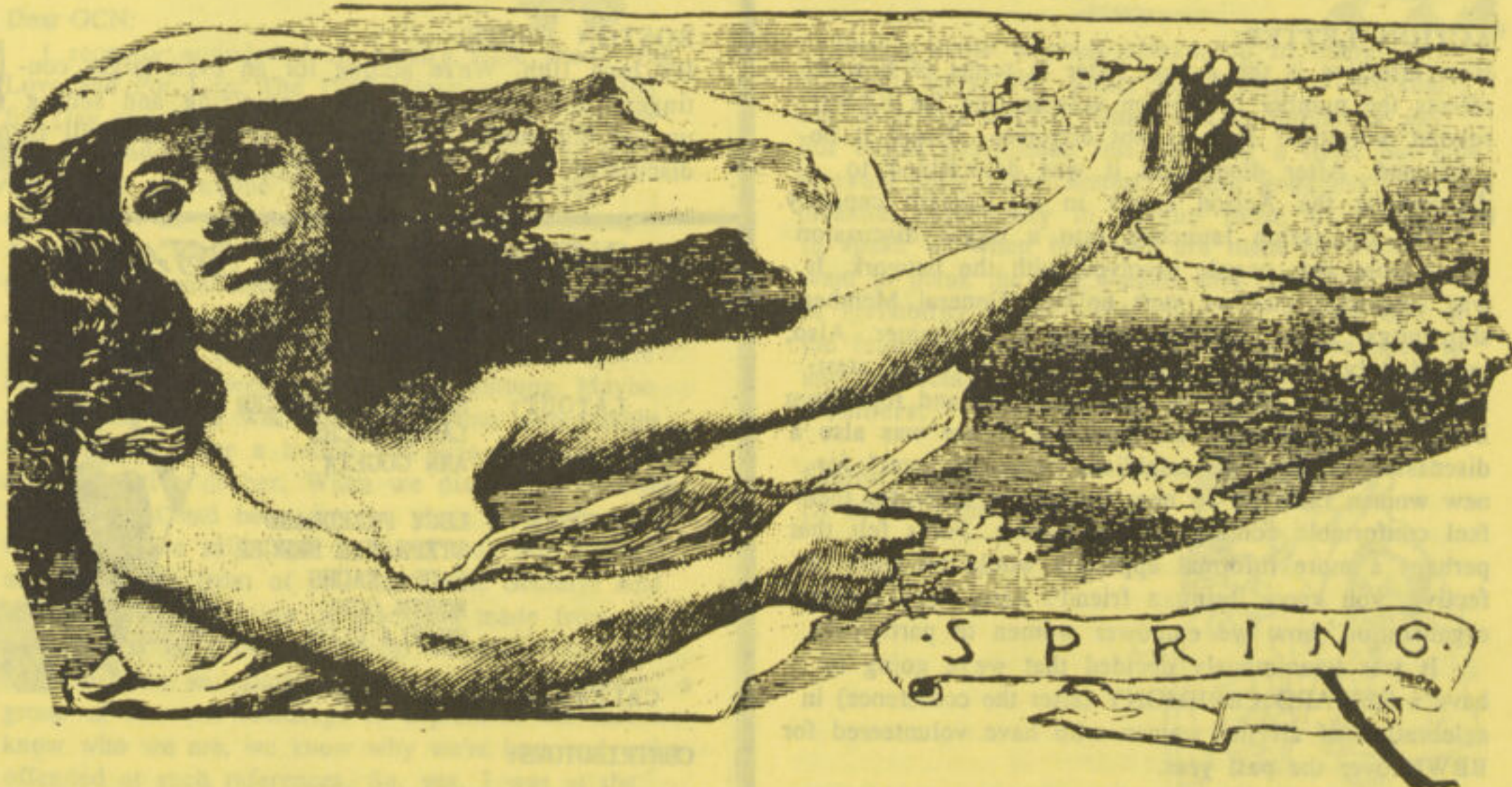
March 25 (Sat) Casselberry - Dupree with Toshi Reagon & Annette Aquilar, special guest Hattie Gossett, Kresge Auditorium, MIT, 7:30pm. \$12.50 adv/\$13.50 door. Proceeds to benefit Stree Lekha, a woman's bookstore & resource center in Bangalore, India. Tix & other info see Clinton Feb. 11th

March 27 (Mon) The night we've all been waiting for... Come stuff our newsletter with the best of them...It's another intriguing Volunteer Night at Robyn's, 7 pm. Call BIS-MOVE for directions.

April 3 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7 pm. See Feb 6th for more details.



BI WOMEN



APRIL - MAY 1989

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2

LESBIAN, GAY & BISEXUAL PRIDE DAY?

Every year, near the end of June, in commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall riot that is considered to have sparked the modern lesbian and gay liberation movement, lesbians and gays all across the country celebrate the thriving of their community and their ongoing liberation struggle, with an event that is generally known as "Lesbian and Gay Pride Day" — or simply "Pride Day" to those in the know. It usually includes a "Pride March" and is often surrounded by "Pride Week" — always with the qualifier "Lesbian and Gay" understood.

Always to be found participating in these events are many straight allies of lesbians and gays — and many bisexual women and men as well.

This year's Boston Pride Day celebration is being planned by a group that has been called the "Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee" or PRIDE FEST. But recently, the committee officially changed its name to the "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Pride Committee," thanks in part to the contributions of Sharla C., a BBWN member, to the committee.

cont. on page 5

TO BE A BISEXUAL FEMINIST

by Beth Reba Weise

What is it to be bisexual? I am pragmatic, and to me it means that I have known many people for whom I have felt love and desire, and these people have belonged to both sexes.

Alfred Kinsey found that human sexuality exists on a continuum. Some people fall at either end of that continuum: 100% homosexual or 100% heterosexual. Most are somewhere in the middle. Our culture has done a good job of teaching us that sexuality is an either/or proposition. Either you are heterosexual or you are homosexual.

However, popular belief doesn't fit everyone's experience. There are people who have never been attracted



continued on page 5

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

2 Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Present at the March 13th mtg: Lucy F.(Facilitator), Lisa W., Laura S., Robyn O., Stephanie B. (note taker), Chris M., Ann G.

ACTION LETTER:

How effective is the Action letter in terms of how it effects the number of women volunteering for BBWN related activities? If it is not effective, should it be continued. After discussion it was determined to discontinue the Action Letter in it's current capacity.

The discussion launched into a larger discussion about what gets people involved with the network. It was suggested that we start holding General Membership mtgs. again, perhaps starting this summer. Also, immediately tapping women into the network, starting at the Intro Mtgs., ie sign up sheets and reps from BiCEP, the newsletter etc. attending. There was also a discussion of how we establish a "comfort level" for new women (and not so new women) in order for them feel comfortable coming out for events. Folks felt that perhaps a more informal approach would be more effective, you know 'bring a friend'. Also, as a political organization, how we empower women to participate.

It was unanimously decided that we're going to have a REWARD CEREMONY (after the conference) in celebration of all the women who have volunteered for BBWN over the past year.

FUND RAISER - AUCTION:

Who's organizing it? We need to check into women's energy levels and if we financially need to fund raise. It was generally felt that unless there is a more active interest, the Auction at the Conference will not happen.

NEWSLETTER:

The issue was raised over control of content, in terms of whoever controls, or has access to the technology, has the power. This was brought to light in ref to: changing editorship and the concern that perspective newsletter volunteers might be intimidated to step forth if they don't have computer skills. [Note: All women are welcome to be part of the newsletter in anyway they feel they can. Laura and I are more than happy to teach you anything about production you want to know, and you don't even have to know how to type. Graphics, Poetry, Letters, Articles are always welcome. The newsletter is OURS.] We discussed how we can keep the newsletter looking good with without being technocratic. Laura announced she will be taking a 6 month sabbatical starting in August. Ann will possibly step in as co-editor.



MEN ON THE MAILING LIST:

Will print the results with the new/old policy statement in the next issue.

CONFERENCE UPDATE:

Price reduction was the major issue; to be discussed at the ECBN mtg, this Sunday (3/19).

BOSTON PRIDE:

It's June 10th. We're aiming for an even larger contingent this year. Need help organizing and setting up the 6th annual pre-march brunch. BiCEP will be discussing PRIDE at their next mtgs.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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LAURA SACHS

LAYOUT: STEPHANIE BERGER
LAURA SACHS
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STEPHANIE BERGER
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We wish the many wonderful women who helped out the BBWN in February and March lots of hugs, foot massages, backrubs, kisses and giggles for the upcoming months! (Or at least until the next newsletter).

LUCY F.	LIZ H.	LISA W.
LISA F.	ANN G.	LAURA S.
HEIDI F.	PAM L.	ROBYN O.
JOANNE T.	SUE W.	ELLEN B.
SHARON G.	M.C.D.	SHARLA C.
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JACKIE W.	CHRIS M.	MARJORIE B.
	SUSAN C.	

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Dear GCN:

I recently attended Joan Biren's slide show "For Love and For Life: The 1987 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights" Sponsored by GCN. It was a wonderful high and brought me back to D.C. where the adrenaline flowed for the bisexual community, as well as for gay men and lesbians. Among the "firsts" that took place that weekend was the first national meeting of bisexuals. While I stood on the Ellipse selling "Bi Pride" buttons, several people came up to me and said "I'm so glad you're here, but I can't wear one of these buttons. Maybe next year." There was also the lesbian who bought her bisexual lover a button and was genuinely proud and supportive of her. When we discovered that the bi contingent had been given a place at the back of the March, we said "hell no" and took our banners and hopped in front of the Gay Celtic Society. And when the only mention of bisexuals made from the podium was by a comedian who welcomed "gays, lesbians and those of you who are confused," a group of us went backstage to explain to her that we know who we are, we know why we're here and we're offended at such references. So, yes, I was at the March and I sat through the slide show reliving that exhilarating weekend and hoping there'd be some references made to bisexuals as part of the movement. But there wasn't.



Fighting lesbian and gay oppression is not new to me. I did it as a lesbian throughout the early 1980's, and I have continued to do it for the past four years as a bisexual. However, the oppression of bisexuals in the lesbian and gay communities feels very similar to me to the oppression of gay men and lesbians in straight society. In particular, I am concerned about the ways in which bisexuals are told (sometimes subtly, sometimes overtly) that we do not exist, that we do not count and that we do not belong. The fact is that many bisexuals have been active members of the lesbian/gay community for



years. Pretending we're not there doesn't make us go away. It also doesn't make us come out as gay or lesbian. Instead it makes us feel invisible, invalidated and angry.



People come to their bisexuality in many different ways. For some, identifying as bisexual can be a step toward coming out as lesbian or gay. For others gay/lesbian felt right for a time, but now bisexual feels more honest. Thank goodness there's a bisexual community to nurture those transitions and to speak up when bisexuals are made invisible. I want to thank the two women who raised the issue of bi invisibility at the slide show and I hope that in the future the gay community will be more open to and appreciative of the participation of it's bisexual members.

Sharon Gonsalves
[A BBWN member]



Dear Bi-Women,

Cheers and hearty good wishes for the year 1989. I am writing to commend you for all the wonderful work you are doing with BBWN and the newsletter. Even though bisexual people are still very isolated from each other, and lesbian and gay organizations exclude bi people from their names and activities, newsletters like yours go a long way towards showing that this is an exciting time for bisexuals and a challenging and growing time for the lesbian and gay movement.

You, together with some of my friends who are bisexual and are part of the Valley Bisexual Network, have personally inspired me, a lesbian, to look at my biases against bisexual people, and how these are expressed in language, assumptions and behavior. I am now doing all I can as Coordinator of MHC's Lesbian Bisexual Alliance to open the organization out to bisexual people. Unfortunately I know that bi women (it's a women's college) do feel alienated in what was previously known as LA, and take part in the organization as lesbians, not as bisexuals. That saddens and angers me. I cannot stand it when lesbians do not realize that heterosexist society gains the most when oppressed groups oppress each other...

Continued on Page 4



I am happy to tell you that our group changed its name from Lesbian Alliance to Lesbian-Bisexual Alliance, and that the first meeting of the Bisexual Support Group will take place this Wednesday (February 8). I also thought of having two awareness weeks - one lesbian and one bisexual. A whole week devoted to bisexual awareness will be wonderful. I hope we can pull it off. We are also hoping to have bisexual women co-facilitate LBA workshops in dormitories.

Great job on the safe sex info.

Sincerely, and with the very best of wishes,

— [redacted] '90

Mt. Holyoke College



Dear Bi Women,

It's about time I subscribed to your newsletter! I send greetings from RBWN -- the Rochester Bisexual Women's Network (an original name, huh?).

We Started the group in April 1988, and it's been wonderfully successful. We hold monthly potluck suppers and meetings for socializing and business matters, in member's homes, the second Sunday of each month. Two support groups have formed, one that meets during the evening and one during the day. We write a column, "Bilines", for the local monthly gay/lesbian newspaper, which I edit. We're starting to hold social events, and we're planning a speakers' bureau.

Being a founding member of the group had been great. I have a new circle of friends. I no longer feel isolated as an editor of a gay/lesbian publication who also has relationships with men. Best of all, we've started a dialogue with the gay and lesbian communities on bisexuality. Some of the communications are bitter, but they're a beginning.

A friend of mine has recently begun a group for bisexual men, but has had a more difficult time than the women's group did in attracting new members and getting an organization going. I've tried to be supportive, but I'm not sure if there's anything I can offer except a sympathetic ear. If anyone has any ideas, or you'd like to learn anything about the women's network, please write to or call me.

Thank you for a great newsletter -- maybe someday Rochester will have one!

Sincerely,

Michele Moore

c/o Empty Closet

713 Monroe Ave., Box F

Rochester, NY 14607

(716) 244 - 9030



Dear BBWN folks,

Since I have moved from New England back to San Francisco, my Bi-political energies have been focused on the local organization, Bi-Pol, as well as the Nascent North American Bisexual Network information! While it is sometimes frustrating to read in Bi Women about all the exciting events, meetings, concerts, and support groups that are happening 3 thousand miles away from me, I console myself with the knowledge that S. F. is also full of exciting opportunities.

For example, the brave women of BiPol have offered to undertake the incredible task of being the headquarters for NABN! They will need a great deal of help, encouragement, and support, and I look forward to working with them in this exciting network endeavor. But I still miss being in the BBWN neighborhood! In the meantime I'll still subscribe to your newsletter for two important reasons:

1) Bi Women is a one-of-a kind publication, and I love reading the opinions, news items, poetry, and encouraging words of bisexual women across the country! It's inspiring!

2) I want to help support BBWN. Even though my contribution is small, I don't want to give up my membership just because I'm now living on the opposite coast.

What we are all doing right now is revolutionary: daring to be out in a world that has always been hostile to us, reaching out to people all across the country, learning to accept and love ourselves, feeling GREAT about our sexual and emotional selves. I want to thank BBWN -- not only for inspiring me, but also for providing the means (i.e. through this newsletter) for women who have been able to discover, discuss, and explore their (our) bisexuality. How many women have come out of the closet within straight or gay communities thanks to BBWN? LOTS, I bet!

cont. on page 6



Having dipped their semantic toes into the forbidding waters of recognition-of-bisexuals, the committee is now seriously considering taking the plunge of including the dreaded B-word in the official name of this year's Boston Pride celebration itself.

This would be a controversial move, particularly among lesbians and gays, but also among bisexuals as well. On the one hand, many feel it important (or at least just) to acknowledge the existence and participation of bi's in the gay community, and their manifold contributions to the gay liberation struggle, in such a widely visible way.

On the other hand, there is also strong sentiment that lesbians and gays deserve to have their own day, and that while many bisexuals may choose to celebrate their "lesbian-ness" or "gay-ness" on that day, bisexuals as a group are not really part of the lesbian/gay community, but rather comprise a distinct community, including many bi's who have little or no contact or sense of identification with lesbians or gays.

From this latter point of view, it may be sufficient for bi's to receive recognition on Pride Day simply by being represented on the committee, having an article in the official "Pride Guide" booklet, having its own Bisexual Contingent, and having an openly bi speaker at the Pride Day rally - all of which are currently planned.

But there is a growing sense in both communities that bi's are about due for greater official recognition by lesbians and gays, and that it is only a question of whether it happens this year (the 20th anniversary of Stonewall) or a little later. The issue is being raised often enough that, whatever decision PRIDE FEST makes for this year, it is bound to be met with a mixture of intense reactions.

There are at least two different ways that YOU can influence whether or not Boston this year takes the historic step of officially celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Pride. One is to write to your local Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Pride Committee and let them know how you feel. Just one or two sentences will get the point across. Your letters should be sent to:

PRIDE FEST
Attn: Secretary
P.O. Box 8916
Boston, MA 02114

continued on page 7

to the opposite sex, people who have never been attracted to the same sex, and there are those who are attracted to both sexes. No amount of political correctness nor cultural teaching can erase these feelings. It merely prevents their being acted upon.

To live as a lesbian or gay man in a heterosexist environment is a difficult life. There are many closeted gay men and lesbians who never express their true sexuality. Undoubtedly there are as many bisexuals who choose to live totally within heterosexual institutions because it's less of a struggle. But every life spent closeted, all love that is unexpressed, is a tragedy. This is as much true for bisexuals as it is for lesbians and gay men. To give up a part of one's sexuality is to give up a part of one's self. But some bisexual women ignore their feelings for men because they are not acceptable within the lesbian community, just as some lesbians ignore their feelings for women because they are not acceptable within heterosexual society.

Those of us who choose to live as "out" bisexuals do so at some risk. The majority culture views us as harmless thrillseekers at best, dangerous moral degenerates at worst. To the gay and lesbian community we are an unknown - a dangerous thing to a community under siege by right wing political and religious groups.

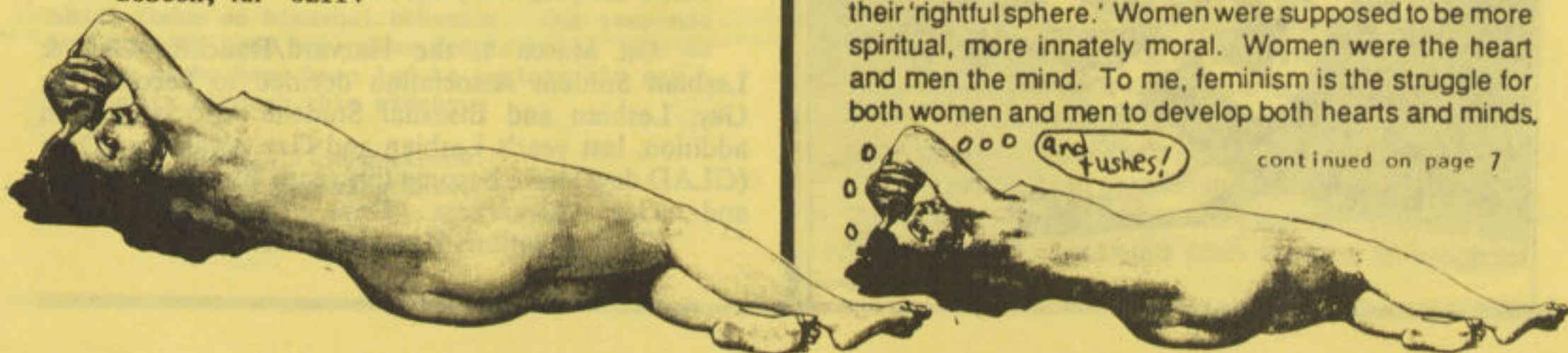
Sometimes it seems to be foolish to try to be active in the lesbian community and bisexual. Surely it would be easier just to love women and ignore feelings for men. It's difficult to try and build intimacy and trust with someone who will never completely understand what it is to exist within the cultural context we know by being female. Of course it is harder with a man. But love is love, and it makes it worth trying to break down the barriers between us.

Lesbians have told me "Why bother getting involved with a man? Women will always understand you better." True, they will. But it could also be argued that I should stick to white, middle class women who grew up in Seattle.

There is a feeling in the lesbian community that it is somehow more noble and on a higher plane spiritually to be involved with women. I have heard lesbians say that we should pity straight women, who are forced by their biology or upbringing to make do with men.

I admit, I'm glad that the spark of fire within me can be lit by women. But the idea that somehow lesbians are the chosen people, that they are better and their feminism purer, is disturbing. It's based on the same sexist argument used in the 19th century to confine women to their 'rightful sphere.' Women were supposed to be more spiritual, more innately moral. Women were the heart and men the mind. To me, feminism is the struggle for both women and men to develop both hearts and minds.

continued on page 7



My personal thanks go out to all the women who send letters and articles to Bi Women, to those who are out there organizing Bi events, to Laura S. and Stephanie B. whose editorial energies are phenomenal, and to all the women whose support makes BBWN possible. You have been a much needed, constant, supportive reminder to me that I am NOT confused, that I am not "playing straight" for convenience, and that I do have an essential and natural tie into a women-loving-women community. The Bi community is a comfortable space in which I can be all of me, active in lesbian/gay politics; meeting wonderful people. I don't have to hide a thing now!

- Naomi T.

Dear Friends,

Last August, I came out as a bisexual, after years in the lesbian community, and Lucy F. not only spent an hour of her time on the phone, answering my question, but sent me your newsletter. I wanted her to know that the hour meant a great deal - in consequence of her encouragement, I joined the Washington, D.C.'s local Bisexual group, Bi-Ways, and became their P.R./Calendar person.

We started Women's Social Group, and a Bi Jewish Support Group. Currently in formation are a Bi Woman Writers and Academics Group, a Bi Woman's S/M Group, and a Bi Men's Social Group.

Cordially,

Robin Elizabeth Margolis
Bi Women's Network
PO Box 2254
Washington, D.C. 20013-2254



P.S. If people need to find Bi Groups in the Va./Md./DC area they can write this address, and we'll assist them.



Northampton March to Include the "B-Word"

Northampton's 8th Annual Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual Pride March will be on May 6th this year. It begins at Northampton's Lampron Park and marchers proceed to Pulaski Park (next to the Academy of Music) for a rally. The March begins at NOON - the rally is at 1pm.

Peace Keepers are needed. If you're interested send your name & address to:

Micki Seigel
113 Linseed Road
W. Hartsfield, MA 01038



Note: I am also the publicity person for the March. If there are any questions I can be reached at the above address or (413) 247-5917. Discretion is not necessary.



It would be great to have a large bisexual contingent present at this event. If you are interested in being part of this contingent please call Robyn at (617) 495-8476.

Cal. Housing Won't Open to Gay Couples

The University of California at Berkeley, citing legal uncertainties and a shortage of university-owned housing for married students, has turned down a request to allow same-sex couples to occupy such housing.

The request had been endorsed by the Associated Students' Senate at the urging of same-sex couples. The couples had charged that the university's policy on married housing occupancy discriminates against gays and lesbians [and bis too, I would think].

Ira Michael Heyman, chancellor of the Berkeley campus, said the state had provided no legal authority for recognizing personal relationships outside of marriage. Allowing same-sex couples to occupy married housing, he said, would "surely invite future litigation." Mr. Heyman's position reflects the university system's policy on the issue, a spokesperson for the university said.

[from the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2/22/89]

And Harvard/Radcliffe Students Add the "B-Word"

On March 1, the Harvard/Radcliffe Gay & Lesbian Student Association decided to become the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Association. In addition, last year's Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days (GLAD days) have become this year's Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Awareness Days (B-GLAD Days). Congratulations Harvard/Radcliffe.

The other possibility you ought to consider is that you have the opportunity to serve on the Pride Committee itself. At present there are only about ten people on the committee, but the closer Pride Day approaches, the more volunteers will be needed to help with all the various aspects of planning and organizing. The more bisexuals who end up working with PRIDE FEST, the more difficult it will be for them to overlook bisexual issues and interests — regardless of the actual name they end up choosing for the Pride Day event itself.

If you are interested in joining the committee, call (617) BIS-MOVE and leave a message for Sharla. If you'd like to help build the Bisexual Contingent for Pride Day, leave a message for BiCEP at the above number (617) 247-6683. But absolutely, reserve JUNE 10th in your busy datebook for this year's Pride Day festivities. Stay tuned for more details about the Bisexual Contingent!!

—Submitted by members of BiCEP



SPEAKING AT BREAKFAST

By: Sharla D. Clos

BBWN and BBMN were asked to make a presentation at the January Gay Community Breakfast. Ellen B. and Sharla C. of the women's network and Woody G. of the men's network addressed approximately 20 people from various gay community groups.

Our presentation included information about our organizations' history, our newsletters, our meetings and get-togethers as well as ECBN's conferences and retreats. In addition, we focused on the importance of coalition building with the gay community because of so many issues which effect both groups, especially these days.

Although we covered almost every detail and emphasized that there were many choices of lifestyles within our community: monogamous relationships, non-monogamous relationships, married individuals, etc., a question and answer period followed which was very positive.

The only question we were asked which deserved a defensive answer was if we thought people were led to our community through pornographic films which focus on bisexual behavior. Our response was that we were sure some people were, just as people might have been led to explore the gay community through this avenue.

It was a moving!!!! experience.
P.S. (Also, my speaking debut!)

Lesbians are often angry with bisexual women. We are called 'fencesitters.' 'women who can't make up their minds.' It's not that we can't make up our minds, but that we already have. We want the freedom to express all of our feelings, towards both women and men. However, I believe that to be honorably bisexual it is necessary to consider oneself a part of the gay community.

It is only because of the tremendous work by lesbians, gays and bisexuals in the last 20 years that the possibility of being openly bisexual is even available to us. We currently live in a time when it is easier than it ever has been in America to live openly as homosexual. It hasn't always been this way. The organized right wing in this and other countries want to make sure that it isn't that way for long. The only hope for bisexuals to keep the relative freedom we now enjoy is to work in coalition with the gay and lesbian community to fight attacks on our civil rights.

It's naive to be bisexual and to expect that the dominant, heterosexual culture will absolve you of the sin of lesbianism, just because you also are attracted to men. In order for lesbians to trust bisexual women, we must identify with and support the lesbian community. I distrust women who sleep with women but say they aren't lesbian or bisexual. I also take exception to lesbians who sleep with men but keep their bisexuality closeted. There are many more bisexual women in the lesbian community than anyone suspects. We have learned to hide because coming out as bisexual often leads to being ostracized by other lesbians. If we were all open and supportive of each other we could deal with the real task - building a society where sexual labels don't matter and diversity is cherished instead of being despised.

Lesbians will say, "But I don't want her bringing her male lover to Amelia's on Saturday nights, and I don't want to see them dancing together at women's dances." Fine. Again, in a perfect culture women wouldn't need to have spaces away from men just to survive day-to-day existence. But this isn't a perfect world, and we do need time with just women. I wouldn't take my lover to Amelia's. However, he took me to hear Sweet Honey in the Rock for the first time, and Alice Walker. Some things are women's culture. Most culture belongs to all of us. I doubt that acceptance of bisexuals would severely dilute lesbian culture.

I believe that only by aligning ourselves with the gay and lesbian community do we have the right to partake of the gains made by gay and lesbian activists in the last 20 years. As the climate of liberal openness changes to one of conservatism, bisexuals will need to work together with the gay and lesbian community to preserve and protect the rights we have already won. If we don't, living as "out" bisexuals or homosexuals soon won't be an option for anyone.

Enjoy N.J.! There is a bisexual women's group meeting in northern New Jersey. Members support one another, of course, but our emphasis is on celebrating being bi in the world. Visitors are welcome and this is not a drop-in group. We meet every fourth Saturday afternoon. Next meeting is April 29. Call Gina at (201) 277-1147. Discretion is appropriate if you leave a recorded message.

F.Y.I. We are loving, courageous, intelligent, sexually exuberant, silly women!

WOBBLES

WOBBLES, West of Boston Lesbians has monthly social gatherings for bisexual women and lesbians. Also has a monthly book club. Contact Janis @ (508) 386-7737 or write, WOBBLES, PO Box 292, Marlboro, MA 01752.

The next meeting is Sunday, April 16th, please call for more info, location and time. ♡

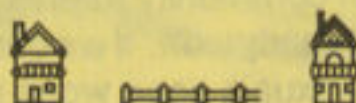
WOBBLES WEEKEND CAMPING TRIP at Nickerson State Park on the Cape. Sat/Sun, May 20/21. Please bring your own gear. Small fee to enter park. There is no registration deadline, but call Janis at above number for more info about car pooling, etc. Hang out with these wild and wonderful women!!!

The Jewish Bisexual group is changing its format. Instead of holding Shabbat dinner the second Friday of the month, events will be scheduled as interest warrants. A Passover Seder is planned for Sunday, April 23rd. Space is limited. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Sue or Marjorie at 437-0242. Please use discretion when calling.

Dear Regina and Ken , Happy 26th Anniversary!!!
-Love, Laura

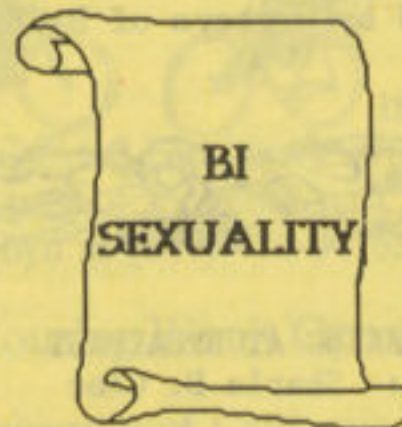


BiF. 32 & 2 yr. old, son, looking to share a responsible and caring home in the Somerville/ Cambridge area. \$300 plus utilities/month for June 1st. Drug/Smoke free. Please call Joyce @ 391-3041.

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENT: BBWN will sadly bid good-bye to our current treasurer, Ellen Brenner as of August, when she will take Seattle by storm! Ellen will be doing a 9 month ministerial internship at University Unitarian Church of Seattle. (Congratulations Ellen, XO -LS) We know all the Bi Gals in SBWN, Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, will help Ellen feel at home!

This means that BBWN will need a new treasurer! Any and all interested folks please call BIS-MOVE (247-6683) and leave a message for Ellen. This job takes approximately 3 hours/month, and Ellen will be glad to teach you all there is to know about being treasurer.

[illegible]

A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

* * *

For Info, Send

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Gibbin Publications

P.O. Box 20917

Long Beach, CA 90801-3917

TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
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CONSULTATION & TRAINING

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

Dear Mom & Dad, Happy 38th Anniversary! (April 14th)
Love, Laura

Stephanie Berger

As I'm sitting in front of my computer, this mid-March evening, the results of the "Should Men Be on the Mailing List" survey are still coming in. Many women have written us back as to why they voted certain ways. We felt it was important to share some of the results with folks, since this decision does effect all of us. The actual results of the voting will be published in the next issue of *BI WOMEN*. If you are interested in being part of this discussion, you should plan on attending the next Coordinating Committee meeting on May 8th (see the calendar for place & time). Everyone is encouraged to attend.

THE NO's:

- St. Petersburg, Florida, "I don't care if they're on the mailing list, but I don't want to have their articles in the paper."
- Burlington, Vermont, "I don't care if they are on the mailing list but I don't want men submitting articles. If this becomes a Bisexual Newsletter that is also Ok-but it is *BI WOMEN*."

Many of the women who voted no felt it was okay for men to be on the mailing list, but felt strongly that they should not be able to submit articles.

- Boston, MA. "I think that men have too much involvement already."
- Cambridge, MA., "This is a women's network - intimate articles like the wonderful personal experience shared by a woman who participated in [last summer's] Bi retreat, could be turned too easily into misogynist pornography in the mind of an insensitive male reader and, encourage stereotyping. I like the privacy of a women's network."
- Jamaica Plains, MA., "I'm of two minds on this - if we're going to grow I think it has to happen and yet I keep wanting to vote 'no'."

THE YES's

- Cambridge, MA., "I guess... it's a hard call- I didn't care one way or the other 'til I read the article on page 3 [Oct/Nov '88 issue]. I am concerned about security and sensationalism but also about building a Bi community."
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, "I think it's time when we have to take leaps of faith beyond our fears and try to expand/extend. So I am voting YES. But I also think the Cons are very important and need to be worked with thoroughly. We don't have to do this black and white..."



- San Fransisco, CA., "Maybe they'll learn something from having to be a small part of women's space, since most of society is the other way around. I think men (Bi Men) can and should dialogue with us Bi Women. That won't change the fact that our newsletter is still focused on and put together by women."

- Takoma Park, Maryland, "My sexual preference is for women, but I spent years dating men before that. I still have friendly feelings for them, though it gives me some amusement to envision them reading the contents of [*BI WOMEN*]."

- Poughkeepsie, NY, "First, we can not discriminate against poor men by making all men pay. The sliding scale must apply to everyone on the mailing list. Anything else would be against our principles. Secondly, I assume and trust that the editors will use their power to keep men's letters to a significant minority. We should hear some of them."

There were also those letter which didn't fit nicely into any category. We knew this was going to be and, has been, a complex issue. We also got other "non-related" responses which I thought folks would find interesting.

One woman from Rochester NY, when asked whether we needed to use discretion when calling responded, "Please be as indiscreet as possible!!!" [A woman after my own heart.]

Someone from New York City, responded, "You can take me off the mailing list. I am not renewing. It just seems your newsletter is more concerned with lesbian issues and beefs (Can we let men read this?) than the issues of loving men and women. I'll be rout'in for you maybe even march'in with ya from time to time - And always challenging people's bi-phobic comments."

One of the editors of a Bi newsletter in the Netherlands, *PINK* (whom we have a newsletter exchange with) told us that after they read *BI WOMEN*, it goes on to the Gay and Lesbian Centre in their town. "So many more people than *PINK* -editors or members of the local Bi-group can read it." Their local group consists of 3 women and 4 men.

One of the more inspiring and empowering results of this survey for me, just looking at the kind of responses we've been getting and from where, is that we ARE everywhere, and that we are a diverse, committed and growing community. YAWZA!!

ONGOING:

TUESDAYS: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP GROUP 7:30-10 pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Str, Central Square. All women welcome.

April's Topics are as follows:

- April 4th: Lesbianism
- April 11th: Class Differences
- April 18th: Artistic Impulse
- April 25th: Butch/Femm

Call the Women's Center at 354-9907 towards the end of April for May Topics



WEDNESDAYS: AL-ANON GROUP for BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN of ALCOHOLICS 7:30 pm at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge 259-1559

Second **WEDNESDAY** of each month: **GAY COMMUNITY NETWORKING BREAKFASTS**, 8 am, at CLUB CAFÉ (Corner of Columbus Ave. & Berkeley Str.) Breakfasts are free. Call 437-5870 for dates and questions.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"Last year, after I went on the march on Washington, people said to me, 'what are you doing? They're gonna' think you're gay.' People think that already, because I hang out with a lot of women. There hasn't been a studio head I've worked for who hasn't come out and asked me if I'm a lesbian... I say, 'Normally, this would be none of your business. However, I will answer you.' And I say, 'It's possible. I'm not practicing at the moment, but I will not say it will never happen or hasn't happened in my past.'"

-Actress Whoopi Goldberg, in *The Advocate*.

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS SEEKS SUBMISSIONS:

GCN is looking for Bi Women and Men to cover the May ECBN conference. You don't have to be a "professional" writer. They are looking for honest accounts of our experiences at the Conference. Call Stephanie Poggi at the GCN 426-4469 for more info.

Let's flood the office with our letters and let them know we're out here, and that we are, and will continue to be a vital force of the Gay Community!



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

____ New subscription

____ Renewal

Check one:

____ No Income (\$0-\$7, sliding scale)

____ Low Income (\$7-\$15, sliding scale)

____ Regular Member \$16

____ Sustaining Member \$25

____ Near Goddess \$50

____ Matron Saint \$100

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) 247-6683

**SUPPORT
YOUR NETWORK!**



April 3 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq., Come find out about BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome. Bring a friend. Call 247-6683 for more info.

April 7 (Fri) Feminism Meets Nationalism: The Role of Women in the Palestinian- Israeli Conflict. A Free talk by Reena Bernards, 8 pm, MIT, Bldg. 66, Room 110. For more info, call 524-0781.

April 8 (Sat) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston, 8-11 pm at the Unitarian Universalist First Church of Jamaica Plain, at the corner of Center & Eliot Str. Admission \$5. Chem & smoke free. Call 321-0567 for more info.

April 9 (Sun) MARCH FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY & WOMEN'S LIVES, Washington, DC, call 782-4059. The 10th will be a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill for the ERA and against anti-abortion legislation.

April 11 (Tues) Pat Humphries Plays @ Quincy House at Harvard University, @ 8pm, free admittance.

April 14 (Fri) Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, RI, 8-11 pm at Body Lab, 568 S. Main Str. Admission \$5. Chem & smoke free. Call Chris (401) 431-0822 for info.

April 15 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch, Come join us for yummy food and good company. Meet under the arch in China-town @ 10:45, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & men welcome. Call 247-6683 if you have questions.



April 15 (Sat) New England Square & Contra Dance in Boston, sponsored by the Gay & lesbian Support Group of The Church of the Convent, 67 Newbury St, 8-11, \$5.00

April 16 (Sun) Laura Berkson, plays @ the Redeemer Episcopal Church, 655 Hope St., Providence,, RI, 7:30 pm.

April 22 (Sat) New England Square & Contra Dance in Hartford, CT. Sponsored by "Dignity" Hartford. Call Janibeth at (203) 423-9985 for location & Information.

April 24 (Mon) A night to always remember. A non-newsletter Volunteer Night at Robyn's house. 7:00 pm. Call BIS-MOVE for directions. It's ALSO the JUNE/JULY Newsletter Deadline!!!

April 23 (Sun) Passover Seder with the Jewish Bi Group. Space limited; Please RSVP to Sue or Marjorie @ 437-0242. Please use *Discretion* when calling.



April 25 (Tues) Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics (BiCEP) Mtg, 7:30 pm, Harvard Yard, Bolyston Hall, Room will be posted. BiCEP works to increase Bi visibility in the straight and gay Communities, and works in the struggle for Bi & Gay Liberation. BiCEP will be discussing : building a BI contingent for the Gay Pride March, June 10th. All women and men welcome. For more info call BIS-MOVE and leave a message for Lucy.

April 28 (Fri) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, see April 14th for more info.

April 29 (Sat) An evening of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston, with Nantucket Sound. See April 8th for more info.

April 30 (Sun) Potluck for Both Women & Men, 3-6 pm at 87 St. Mary's St., Apt 5, Brookline, call 739-9636 for info, ask for Matt. Is T accessible.

May 1 (Mon) An evening of comedy to Benefit the Pride Committee at the Comedy Connection, 2 shows 7:30 & 9:30. \$15, adv. tix at *Luxors*, or call 232-1716. Reception to follow at *Buddies*. Wear your Bi-Pride Buttons!!

May 8 (Mon) Coordinating Committee mtg, 7 pm Harvard Yard, Bolyston Hall, Rm 2B, All women welcome.

May 12 (Fri) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, see April 14th for more info.

May 13 (Sat) Folk Dance Party & Workshop in Boston. No experience necessary. See April 8th for more info.

May 13/14 (Sat/Sun) CULTURE, COMMUNITY & COALITION BUILDING: THE FIFTH ANNUAL EAST COAST BISEXUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE. (Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. (See attached flier or call BIS-MOVE for more info).)

May 20 (Sat) Dim Sum Brunch, see April 15th for more info/.



May 26 (Fri) Pat Humphries plays at *Modern Times Café* 7:30 or 8 pm Location: 134 Hampshire St., call 354-8371 for exact time and tix cost.

May 26 (Fri) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, see April 14th for more info.

May 27 (Sat) An evening of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston. See April 8th for more info.

May 30 (Tues) * PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TUESDAY VOLUNTEER NIGHT to stuff June/July Newsletter -on account of memorial Day- at Robyn's, 7:00 Call BIS-MOVE for more info. & Directions.

June 5 (Mon) BBWN Info Mtg. See April 3rd for more info.

June 10 (Sat) BISEXUAL/GAY/LESBIAN PRIDE MARCH! Don't forget our 6th Annual Pre-March Brunch - look in GCN, Sojourner, Bay Windows and the June/July newsletter for location and time - or call 247-6683 for info.



BIPOL/1990 INTERNATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE

584 Castro Street
Box #422
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 821-3534

BIPOL, the Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian political organization of the San Francisco Bay area is proud to announce that it will be sponsoring the 1990 International Bisexual Conference in San Francisco. Plans are underway and we would like your input to design a conference to meet the needs of the international bisexual community. We ask that you make copies of this questionnaire and distribute them to members of your organization. Please encourage your members to fill them out and return them to BIPOL no later than November 15, 1988:

(optional): NAME _____ PHONE # () _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Is confidentiality required? ☐ NO ☐ YES

Are you affiliated with a group ☐ NO ☐ YES: _____
What community do you affiliate yourself with? _____

I. CONFERENCE DATES
Wednesday, June 20, 1990 (Welcoming reception begins early evening)
Thursday, June 21, 1990 (Workshops and evening social gatherings)
Friday, June 22, 1990 (" " " " " ")
Saturday, June 23, 1990 (" " " " " ")
Sunday, June 24, 1990 (Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Pride Parade march)
Please check which date you will most likely arrive in San Francisco.

II. HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS
Please check which of the following most meets your needs:
Motel (\$35-\$70) ☐ Single Occupancy
Hotel (\$100-\$200) ☐ Double Occupancy
Bed & Breakfast (\$40-\$150) ☐ Child Accommodations: Age(s) _____
Private Residence ☐ I am willing to share a hotel room
☐ Women Only Accommodations
☐ Men Only Accommodations

III. SPECIAL NEEDS
Mobility Impaired ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Childcare ☐
Sight Impaired ☐ Clean/Sober ☐ Other: _____
Hearing Impaired ☐ Allergies ☐ _____
Non-Smoking ☐ Environmental Sickness ☐ _____
Smoking/Smoker-tolerant ☐ PMA/ARC ☐ _____

IV. TRANSPORTATION
☐ I will be renting a car
☐ I will be using public transportation

PLEASE FILL IN THESE FORMS AND RETURN THEM TO BIPOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE DISREGARD THE NOV. 15, 1988 DEADLINE DATE, BUT SEND YOUR FORMS IN ASAP. IF YOU WANT THE FORMS TO BE 8 1/2" X 11", PLEASE ENLARGE EACH HALF OF THE PAGE 170%.

V. CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

We would like your suggestions in the following areas:

Suggested Themes: _____

Keynote Address: _____

Opening Speech: _____

Closing Speech: _____

Suggested Speakers: _____

Speakers will include Master of Ceremonies, Keynote, Opening, Closing, and Conference Chairpersons. Please list any suggested speaker(s) below and how we can contact them:

Name _____ Affiliation _____ Address/Phone # _____

VI. WORKSHOPS

Please place a number from 1 to 4 next to each category, indicating which areas you feel are most important to address at the conference. (1 = most important; 4 = least important):

#	EDUCATIONAL	#	HEALTH/SEXUALITY	#	SOCIAL/LIFESTYLES	#	POLITICAL
Suggested length:	Suggested length:	Suggested length:	Suggested length:	Suggested length:	Suggested length:	Suggested length:	Suggested length:
90 min	90 min	90 min	90 min	90 min	90 min	90 min	90 min
120 min	120 min	120 min	120 min	120 min	120 min	120 min	120 min
Suggested topics:	Suggested topics:	Suggested topics:	Suggested topics:	Suggested topics:	Suggested topics:	Suggested topics:	Suggested topics:

#	OTHER	Are you interested in conducting a workshop in one of these areas? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES
Suggested length:	min	If so, please list the subject matter:
Suggested topics:		

VI. Miscellaneous

Please attach separate sheet of paper to reply to the following questions:
Please list those issues you feel are most important to the bi community.
Please list those issues you feel are most important to you as a bi individual.
We would like any other ideas, comments, suggestions, etc., you may have.
Thank you for your time and participation! Please submit this questionnaire as soon as possible to BIPOL at the above address.

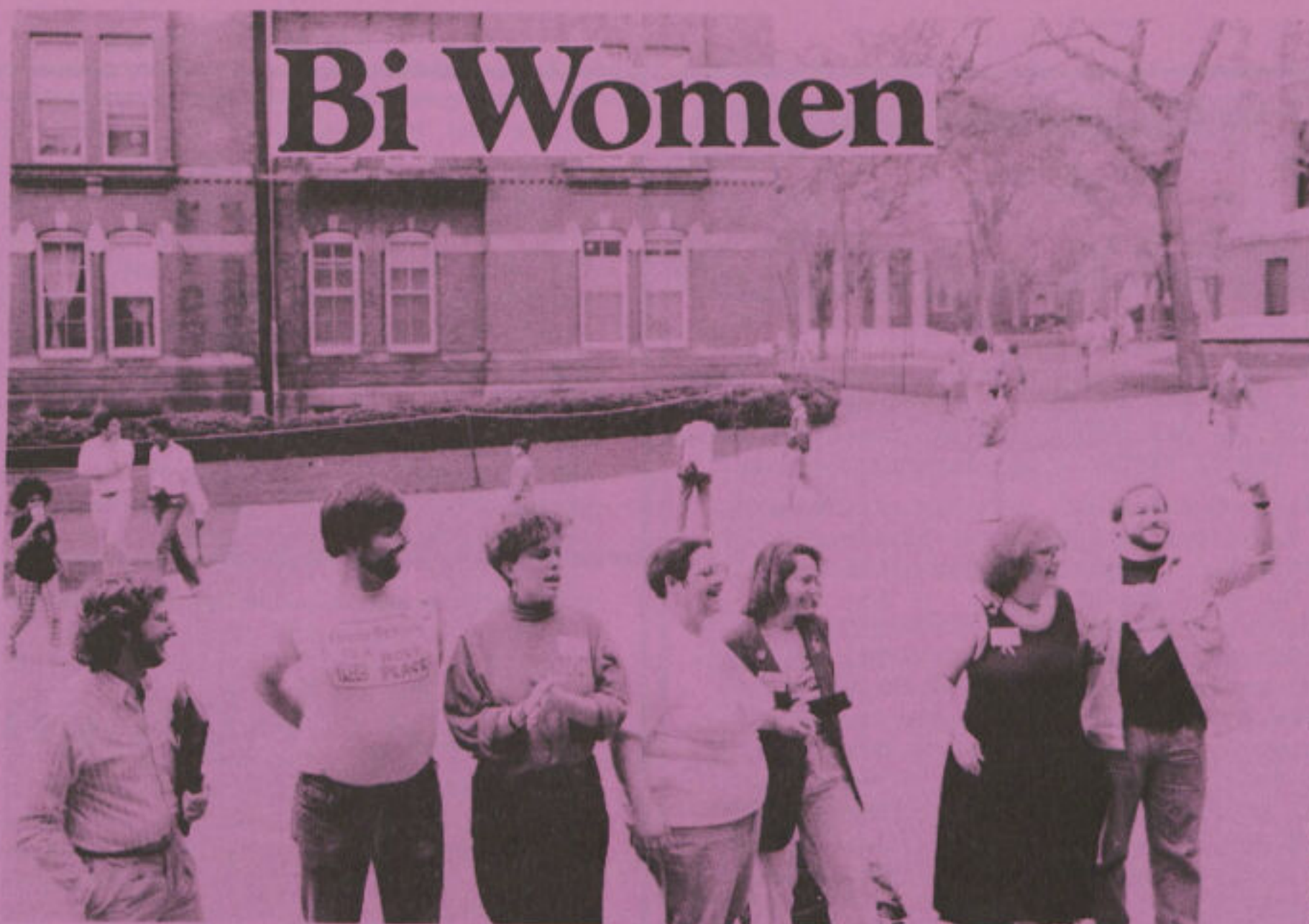


photo: Marcia Dehti

The East Coast Bisexual Network Conference Committee for the Fifth Conference on Bisexuality: Culture, Community & Coalition Building, Harvard Univ. May 13-14 1989. (L to R) Woody Glenn, Alan Hamilton, Stephanie Berger, Laura Sachs, Alexandra Burack, Ellen Brenner & Wayne Bryant. (Not pictured above: David Chapman, [REDACTED] & Lucy Friedland).

JUNE - JULY 1989

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3

**THE FIFTH ANNUAL EAST COAST BISEXUAL
NETWORK CONFERENCE ON BISEXUALITY:
CULTURE, COMMUNITY, COALITION-
BUILDING
KEYNOTE ADDRESS - EXCERPTS**

LANI KAAHUMANU

In San Francisco we have a gay cable TV program called "Electric City", that has a "That Was The Week That Was" format. Bisexuality is addressed each week. We decided we would do 30 second bisexual "public service spots" that would help dispell the myths and stereotypes about bisexuality. They would be shown over a three month period. About 12 of us met to tape. I thought I would begin with my 30 second spot...



Hi my name is Lani and I'm a bisexual. I've been a bisexual for 9 years although I haven't been sexual with a man for the last 4. My lesbian friends who sleep with men ask me - "Why don't you call yourself a lesbian?" and I look at them and say - "Why don't you call yourself a Bisexual?" ...Thank you.

continued on page 4

**THE ARTICLE I HAVE BEEN THREATENING TO
WRITE EVER SINCE I JOINED THE NETWORK
OR
MY LIFE AS A LESBIAN-IDENTIFIED BISEXUAL
FAG-HAG
ELLEN BRENNER**

What means this title? It means that it's all well and good to try to follow Plato's dictum, as well as that of many modern feminists, and get to honestly know yourself, BUT--what if the self you are thereby revealing steadfastly refuses to fit in any of the boxes society has created--even the supposedly most radical ones? Which is just the situation I found myself in before I found the bi networks, and even since that point as well.

I did not have any early conscious knowledge of my sexual orientation, but one thing I did know from childhood was that modern nuclear-family heterosexual union was not for me. I spent too many years watching it destroy my mother and father--my mother especially; I think when Adrienne Rich wrote the line "The woman I needed my mother to be died before I was born", she was reading my mind. Nor did the boy-girl games at high school thrill me--in fact they hurt like hell, because as a fat girl with brains I was rated an asexual being by my peers and thus not eligible to play. It took me years to figure out whether I wanted to play boy-girl for my own reasons and desires, or to show up those adolescent sexists.

continued on page 4

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140



We wish the many extraordinary women who helped out the BBWN and the ECBN Conference Committee in April and May OODLES of sun, fun, long walks on the beach, zephyrs, and bug-free outings!!!

Alix B.	Ann G.	Kathleen H.
Laura S.	Ilene D.	Robyn O.
Stephanie B.	Stephanie's Mom	Liz H.
Ellen B.	Joanne T.	Liz N.
Lucy F.	Cathy C.	BiCEP
Susan C.	Ginny L.	The Hasbians
Sue W.	Ruth L.	Holly H.
Marjorie B.	M.C.D.	Laurie A.
Marcia D.	Lisa W.	Heidi F.
Jackie S.	Sharon G.	Pam L.
Lani K.	Claire M.	Chris M.
Vicki M.	Sharla C.	Joan C.
Autumn C.	Pepper G.	Marianne



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ANN GOGLIA
LISA W.
STEPHANIE BERGER
LAURA SACHS

LAURA SACHS



We love you folks out there...in fact, we think you're the best audience a volunteer group of diverse and dynamic dames like us could possibly have! But just as with chocolate, kids, and new romances, we often spend more on you than we budgeted for. You see, every time we forward a newsletter that came back to us because you moved, we spend one dollar on you. That's right, a whole dollar! And at 350 or more relocations per year... well, that's a whhhhhole lotta choc'lat' !!! So please, use the new address correction form TODAY...or whenever you move. Because we love our readers AND our chocolate.



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

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☐ Renewal

Check one:

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☐ Low Income (\$7-\$15, sliding scale)

☐ Regular Member \$16

☐ Sustaining Member \$25

☐ Near Goddess \$50

☐ Matron Saint \$100

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

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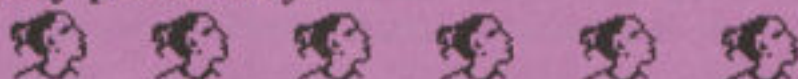
SUPPORT YOUR NETWORK!



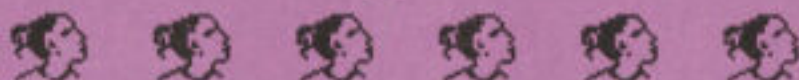
Marcia Deihl
5-1-89

[Note: The above was submitted to the Pridefest Committee for possible inclusion in the Pride Guide.

"What were you doing in June of 1969? Were you: a) born yet? b) straight? c) a bigot? d) gay?" It would be fun to take a poll from among the marchers in this year's Pride march twenty years after Stonewall. Personally, I would have to admit to a), b), and c). I was 19 then, a sophomore at Boston University, and in love for the first time. David and I had a magical spiritual/intellectual bond, but the physical part never seemed to happen for him. Oh, but he wasn't one of those people, whom had had known as the child of a New York theater director. We had rolled our eyes at the two men mincing about a Fire Island grocery store. (Five years later, of course, he came out as a gay man.) One year later, I got a crush on Diana, who had green eyes and dark hair. She was the "liberal" one in my consciousness-raising group of Bread and Roses (Boston's early feminist network). Also in my group was my first "political lesbian" friend, who impressed me with her radical analysis and her gutsy personality.



And ten years later? Then I was playing music in a feminist string band and having my first affair with a woman. Yes, I still am a "self-avowed" bisexual. And as a bisexual, I relate to the street queens of the Stonewall Bar, the day they'd had enough, the day they shouted, "Hell no! We won't go!" when their bar got busted. Some spark must have been ignited, some crucial corner turned, when each of them could no longer continue to deny their dignity, integrity and self-love. Some Boston area bisexuals felt that same way when a cartoon in the 1983 "April Fool" issue of Gay Community News came out. It featured a dyke who was found lacking "bisexuality insurance" when her bi lover had dumped her. But we couldn't complain; we couldn't attack the very same gay movement which had given us so much and which needed our support. Or could we?



A year before this cartoon, Lisa Orlando (a GCN Staff writer) had written a letter to the editor of GCN (which ran with the headline, "let bi girls be bi girls!"), which identified bisexuality as a valid and new gay minority. She pointed out the prejudices that most people in both the gay/lesbian and the straight world held: that bisexuals were "promiscuous, incapable of commitment, manipulative, coupouts, 'really' straight, 'really' homosexual but not dealing with it..." (unlike all gay men, all lesbians and all heterosexuals??!). When the cartoon appeared, Lisa had been meeting for several months with seven other bisexual women who had met at a Cambridge Women's

Center Bisexual discussion night. We named ourselves The Bivocals. (Two of us had met in 1981 at a previous Cambridge Women's Center Bisexuality discussion night, and had continued to meet with a group for a year, until the others dropped out.) Not only did the Bivocals respond angrily to the cartoon, but we organized a women's bisexual support network meeting in June of 1983. This meeting attracted about 30 women; it turned out to be the founding meeting of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network (BBWN) which now has over 700 members/friends on its mailing list. Later in that same year, the Boston Bisexual Men's Network started meeting; it has over 200 members/friends today.



One of BBWN's first projects was to organize a Bisexual contingent for the 1983 Pride march. This public coming out, like the Stonewall Rebellion, smashed the silence which had previously made us feel maligned, invisible, and angry. As we march today, amidst one of the most crucial moments in history/herstory for gay liberation, we all need each other and each of us personally needs to "speak truth to power" and connect with our original inner spark of gay pride. Even if Eleanor Roosevelt, Margaret Mead, Leonard Bernstein and Cary Grant didn't or don't identify as "political" Bisexuals, many of us do. We need everyone's continued understanding and support as we work side by side with gay men, lesbians and straight people. As Robyn Ochs said in a 1985 speech at the 2nd Northeast Regional Bisexual Conference, we are often the primary targets for homophobia since we are the often the primary contact to the gay community for heterosexuals. But we can't say to the boss who would fire us, "Please, just reduce my hours to half time--I'm only bisexual." We cannot say to the courts which are trying to take our children away, "Please, only take half my children," or to the bashers, "Oh just beat me up on my right side--I'm only half gay." And now we have been dubbed "the ultimate pariahs" by Newsweek magazine. We are the ones charged with spreading AIDS to the "poor innocent" hets. We absolutely depend on a strong, proud Gay Lesbian Bisexual Liberation Movement. Don't gloss over us; don't let "bisexual" become "the B word." Call us by our name. It takes one second out of a twenty-four hour day to add the words "and bisexual" to any given phrase. Choose visibility! Choose dignity! Support the spirit of Stonewall!



One of the things one does, though, if one is female, bright, and mouthy, is one develops one's personality, wit, and humor. I am told I did a pretty good job of this--in fact, I got pretty outrageous by the time I hit college. And what I discovered in the fair Ivy halls was another oppressed group that, when confronted with its oppression, resorted to outrageous humor--gay men.

Suddenly I found myself up to my elbows in men of wit and poise, many of whom were physically beautiful, all of whom managed to look truly beautiful to my eyes even beyond the physical stuff. Unlike the loutish straight jocks of my high school years, these guys radiated sensual grace. And man, did they throw the most stylish parties, and dish the wildest dirt!

Even better, I was accepted as one of the boys. Nobody looked me up and down and rejected me from the group. Rather, I was celebrated for my wacky humor. I became the mascot, as it were, for a circle of gay men. I had made it as a fag-hag.



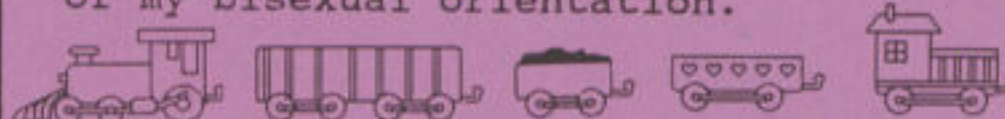
There was one problem, though. No sexual fulfillment. I got some measure of vicarious, voyeuristic thrills in watching the guys cruise, and in dancing up a sweat with them in the clubs. But come 2 am, and they went off in twos (or whatever) and I went home alone. Somehow I was once again stuck not being allowed to play.

So I turned dyke and rode with the Amazons for awhile. This was not totally out of the blue, as I had already become aware of my ability to be turned on by women. But the way Boston lesbian feminist politics were running in the early 1980s when all this was going down, you were looked at funny if you even had male friends, even if they were just friends, even if they were gay. I remember having a couple of lesbians come to one of my household's big bashes--they and I were the only women in the joint. One of them said to me sympathetically, "Yeah, I used to hang out with a lot of gay men too when I was first coming out." They left early. I did a slow frustration-burn most of the night. So I would have to choose, would I?

Well, I did; for a year I did hard-core lesbian-separatist, and then tapered off to mellow lesbian feminist. There were some wild thrills to that--it was even more counter-culture revolutionary than fag-hagging, and those women's music festivals! Thousands of women running around in all states of dress, or not, living out their dreams of the Amazon Tribal Nation in the sun and among the mosquito bites--me among them. And I found a circle, my own little CR group, and I became a fixture once again.

cont. on pg. 6

I'm a proud bisexual woman with a multiracial and multicultural background. I have had a long incredible journey to get to this place of knowing and trusting the potential of my bisexual orientation.



Realizing that lesbianism was a stage for me was a fairly giant leap in consciousness and another even more shocking life transition to say the least. You are probably wondering how I got from there to here.... well it wasn't the easiest thing I've ever done.

The panic, confusion and feelings of isolation were overwhelming. I knew I would be seen as a traitor, weakening lesbian pride and unity. There is a grain of truth that coming out bisexual undermines the lesbian/gay movement because bisexuality gives credence to the homophobic/heterosexist belief there is no such thing as a homosexual. But it is also true that in the longrun

not coming out as a bisexual undercuts not only the personal liberation of bisexual people, but it perpetuates the belief that there is no such thing as a bisexual.

I began to realize that my biphobic attitudes were in direct proportion to my own suppressed bisexual feelings. This new awareness had nothing to do with the privilege of knowing that I was now "more acceptable" and had more options because I was with a man and people assumed I was straight. It also had nothing to do with an inability on my part to make choices. These feelings had everything to do with being a bisexual in a world that denied my existence. It had everything to do with being told I had to make a choice....as if bisexuality was not even an option.

cont. on pg. 7



(L to R) Stephanie Berger, Alexandra Burack, Dean Janet Viggiani, Lani Kaahumanu

photo: Laura Sachs

Ann Goglia

Bisexual Lives is a book published by "Off Pink Publishing," a collective of people in London who identify as bisexual. The collective was formed as the result of a discussion at the Second National Bisexual Conference at the London Lesbian and Gay Centre in April of 1985. The goal of the group was to produce a book by and about bisexuals (there being a huge deficit in that area, as we well know).

The structure of the book is as eclectic as the bisexual population itself. The "heart" of the book consists of twelve short autobiographical stories told by twelve bisexuals. The book also includes short collections of quotes sandwiched in between stories, with such catchy titles as "Sex," "Coming Out," and "Masturbation." At the end of the book there are sections on "Bisexuality and AIDS," "Being Bisexual - Towards a Definition," and information about groups and printed material available.

For each of the twelve people telling their story, being bisexual means something different: if there is one underlying theme to Bisexual Lives, it is that "each person experiences their sexuality differently, and we [the Off Pink Collective] feel it is right to fully acknowledge this...the emphasis should be on a fluid sexuality rather than a fixed one" (pp. 5-6). The book's definition of bisexuality is deliberately open, defined by one's essence rather than one's behavior: "to have the potential to be open emotionally and sexually to people as people, regardless of their gender" (p. 6).

The twelve who tell their stories here are fairly diverse in their sexual experiences and lifestyles. There are five men and seven women. Some have come from a heterosexual orientation, some from a homosexual one, and some have always identified as bisexual, even if they did not have the word for it. All are white, relatively young, and from middle to upper middle class backgrounds, as far as I could surmise. I have found from my very unscientific observation that most of the people actively involved in the Boston Network tend to be from similar backgrounds. Why? There is no simple answer, but it might have something to do with us - and I include myself, as I am from the white, middle class - being comfortable enough to have the "luxury" of concerning ourselves with issues of sexuality and gender roles.

As the title would lead you to believe, the individual stories deal with the effects of the authors' bisexuality on their lives. Most write about childhood and adolescent experiences. For many, it was years before they discovered their own bisexuality. It was often both a painful and joyful discovery. Almost all

cont. on pg. 8

BISEXUAL, GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE IN NORTHAMPTON

Sharon Gonsalves

Rain gave way to sunshine and the 8th Annual Pride March in Northampton was a big success. This year's march was the first to include Bisexuals in it's title, so about ten Boston Bisexuals went west to join the festivities. The day started out with a brunch at the home of Wayne & Rock'in Dave (lovely fruit salad). After eating, chatting and sign making, we gathered up our banners and headed for the starting point.

The bis were near the head of the march with a contingent of about fifty people (including the Boston Bisexual Sadomasochists) and three banners belonging to the Valley BiNetwork, the National Bisexual Network and BBWN. We strutted proudly through the center of town where, on front of City Hall, we were met by some right wing opposition ("Avoid AIDS, Get right with God") and welcomed by the Unitarian Universalists ("God loves you and so do we"). Two men rose to the occasion by kissing boldly and passionately on the steps of City Hall to the cheers of the marchers.

The organizers counted 1,450 of us all together. The march ended in Pulaski Park, in the center of town, with a rally. Speakers included Ray Paquette of the Valley BiNetwork whose words were greatly appreciated. The rally concluded with music and dancing, after which a few of us adjourned to East Heaven Hot Tubs where we were joined by a very large bee. We had dinner at the Iron Horse Cafe before the long ride home. A good time was had by all.

Congratulations Northampton Bis!!!!!!!



TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

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CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

And once again there was a problem. The same problem. I wasn't getting any. And now I was running afoul of political-correctitude types who were implying that I was still thinking patriarchally if I was hung up on getting any. Oh, I got laid, mind you, and I navigated a major relationship. But the only politically correct lesbian sexuality seemed to be monogamy, or serial monogamy--with no roles, no butch/femme, and DEFINITELY none of that stuff with the funny letter-acronyms like (HORRORS) s/m! (Apparently, no humor either). In the privacy of my own heart I knew that the way I really wanted to be was wild and free, happily non-monogamous, maybe even kinky if I felt like it, like the guys seemed to do with such ease. Only Pat Califia was singing that song at the time; later would come Joanne Loulan and Susie Bright and Joan Nestle. Those few who did stand up for such goings-on at the time were being viciously trashed in feminist newspapers everywhere. And still wanting to sleep with men--NOBODY was admitting to that!!!

Eventually I found myself leaving a two-plus years monogamous relationship with a lesbian that had come down with a bad case of what Loulan has called "lesbian bed death." My lover was having big problems about incest memories and other genuinely devastating issues, and I like a good lesbian-feminist supportively monogamous type was being supportive . . . and functionally celibate. Then I made a new friend, a very sexy and kinky gay man, and to my horror I discovered I was falling deeply in lust with him. I could stand putting my needs last no longer.

I came to the bisexual networks very confused and desperate. How to ever get what I want? It didn't seem possible. In some ways I felt like a faggot trapped in the body of a lesbian. I wanted to be wild, with both women and men. But the price seemed so damn high, in ostracism from every community I had ever tried to make serve as home. And now, with AIDS floating around, even some parts of the gay-male community seemed to be making sex-phobic noises. Was nothing sacred? And why were the networks gender-segregated? Was I going to have more of the same old trips laid on me? I needed some integration of the fragments of my desires, not yet more turf-wars!

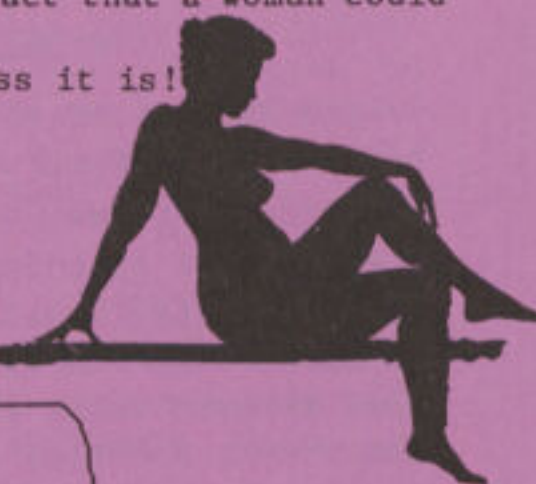
I need not have worried. Obviously, the Boston networks are not utopias, nor dating services--they never pretended to be. They are delightfully, frustratingly anarchic collectives of bi-folks who are, just like me, sort of making it up as they go along. What seems to be the curse of past bisexual invisibility turns out to have been a blessing in disguise--since we supposedly didn't exist, nobody has made up any rules for us and we can make our own rules. So, for instance, I was delighted to find that, while a few individuals still find the concepts scary, there seems to be greater tolerance for things like open relationships, multi-person relationships, cross-dressing, kinky sex--and even for a mixed-up fag-hag who is finding that it was not she who was mixed-up at all, but the people around her who were laying trips on her.

I'm still not totally where I want to be. This culture is not only heterosexist, homophobic and biphobic, it is thunderously SEX-PHOBIC, and we women especially have borne the brunt of it. It seemed we could only choose between pristine purity (with attendant boredom), or infamy as sluts. Worse, if we showed any interest in sex at all, sexist men would take that as an invitation to walk all over us and abuse us. Even if we showed NO interest, sexist males would take

our mere femaleness as invitation. No wonder the radical feminist line hardened around an anti-sex stance--the whole realm of sex had become tainted by all that uninvited, often violent attention.

But now, isn't it time to re-conquer the realm of sex for ourselves? Isn't it time for this woman to ask, what do I want? What turns me on? Who turns me on? Without any trips at all, neither from left nor right, neither from straight nor gay? Time to drop all the labels of "sick", or "sinful", or "politically incorrect"? Is this not the most revolutionary act that a woman could perform today?

Oh, honey, you bet yer ass it is!



A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

For Info, Send

SASE To:

Gibbin Publications

P.O. Box 20917

Long Beach, CA 90801-3917

CATHY McDERMOTT, ACSW, LICSW

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

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The two choices were separated by a fence - that I was supposedly sitting on. Well you know what? The confusion is not in the choices...the confusion for everyone is that there is no fence. So when bisexual people come out we are challenging a fundamental belief system that posits everything in dichotomous either/or, normal/abnormal, heterosexual or homosexual assumptions. What we are saying is life is not that simplistic. There is a spectrum. It is rich and varied. The more bisexual people who come out of the closet, the less confused heterosexual and homosexual people will be. BUT more importantly the self-doubt and isolation we experience will be clarified because we will find each other and gain a sense of pride in our community and culture.

I want us to think about our bisexual community and culture. Why does the attitude exist that we don't have a bisexual community or culture? Why is it used against us so effectively? Why have we accepted invisibility and why haven't we projected a more visible presence, creating a prominent community that even the most virulent biphobes would have to recognize? The answer of course is that is the way bisexual oppression operates. On some level we believe the lie that what is shared isn't community, isn't a commitment of any significance, isn't comparable to the lesbian/gay/heterosexual communities we are "in". The fear is that if we come out we will "lose" those communities. We will be isolated, targeted for attack, simply put - rejected. Remember coming out takes practice...takes guts...takes commitment...takes perseverance...takes time...

We have to take ourselves seriously-positive images build pride. And the power of pride can never be underestimated. We are fighting for our lives. AIDS is a crisis of deadly epidemic proportions. The services and educational efforts for the bisexual community even in San Francisco where the world comes to learn from the San Francisco Model have only been given a token gesture and only because of visible bisexual persistence. Now in a panic 8 years later they want to talk. They want to get the answers that the statistic have been begging for - let us not fool ourselves. We are fighting for our lives and the silence is killing us, literally killing us. At what price are we selling ourselves short?

We have to talk about AIDS. It goes beyond safe sex. We have a National government that has done nothing. We have state governments pushing mandatory testing and quarantine. We have city officials fighting over the meager resources. Who gets the money? Who is being educated? ...not the people of color; not the IV drug users; not young people...and although we are all these people the specific needs of bisexuals are not being met. It is obvious how important visibility and validation are to bisexual people. As a fledgling community we cannot backdown in the face of discrimination. We must come to terms with our personal sexuality, our identities as bisexual people and work together as a community.

I believe that the issues of sexual orientation are at once intimately personal yet also have deep political implications. The fact that there is a closet at all is testament to the oppression. The coming out process of each and every one of us is directly related to the visibility of our community and movement. We are discovering who we are.

I want us to be able to look anyone in the eye and proudly say - yes, some of us are swingers, so what; yes, some of us are sexworkers, so what; yes that's right some of us are straight, married and monogamous, so what; and some of us are People with AIDS and HIV infections, so what; and yes some of us are not feminists, so what; and yes some of us are dykes and faggots, and believe it or not some of us are prudes! and some of us are promiscuous - some of us are into SM and some of us are vanilla queens so what!!! So fucking what, we are in this together.

For now it is our identity as Bisexuals and our desire for recognition that unites us. We must understand there is an incredible strength in our diversity. It is also our most formidable challenge. It is my vision that feminist ideals will present thoughtful and inclusive ways to proceed. That we are women and men working together to end sexism and racism and all other forms of oppression. And that our voices will no longer be silenced nor will they be mistaken for that of a lesbian, gay or straight persons. We stand as proud allies a part of and a part from the lesbian, gay and heterosexual communities. This conference proves it can be done.

cont. from pg. 5

of the contributors feel good about being bisexual, but badly about the many misunderstandings, hurt feelings and rifts caused by stereotypic attitudes towards bisexuality. Each story is written in the author's own style and format. They are short and to the point - none is longer than seven pages.

It is hard to compare the stories in quality, and to a certain extent, it seems beside the point. Literary excellence was not the goal of the book - real stories about people's sexuality is what the book gives us, and each reader will bring to it their own issues and interests. When I first looked at the book, I skimmed through to find the stories that I most identified with and read those avidly. Then I went back and read all the stories, and found they each had something to say to me or teach me about experiences and lifestyles different than my own. I tend to be generally open-minded about non-monogamy, as long as it is consensual. Those who are close-minded about it may find the book disturbing, as most of the people live non-monogamous lifestyles.

The section of AIDS will probably be controversial for some (anything about AIDS usually is). The Off Pink Collective endorses safe sex, although their "Safer Sex, in brief," should NOT be used as the sole source of information on the subject - nor I think is it meant to be. It gives a rough idea of the varying risk levels of different kinds of sexual acts, but it is very sketchy, and leaves out some things altogether, such as mutual masturbation. They then include some bisexual people's experiences in dealing with the AIDS epidemic - how it has changed their sexual behaviors, and affected their lifestyles. This seemed to me quite valuable, and quite rare. We in the bisexual and gay community hear lots of stuff about safe sex, but little about what people who remain sexually active do with that information in a personal and realistic way.

The final section, "Being Bisexual - Towards a Definition," begins with a collective statement, written by a bisexual liberation caucus in order "to focus on what to communicate to non-bisexuals so that bisexuals become more visible and liberation is progressively achieved." This is followed by "A Bisexual Manifesto," and then a series of articles reprinted from the "Bi-Monthly" Newsletter. The book ends with a list of bisexual groups around the world, and a fairly extensive bibliography of both nonfiction and fiction having to do with bisexuality. As a whole I found the ideas and information thought-provoking and useful.

My conclusion is READ THIS BOOK! The Off Pink Collective people are anxious to sell it, and we are including an order form in this newsletter.

ORDER FORM

(Individual copies) To: Off Pink Publishing, 21 Nassington Road, London NW3 2PX, England

Please supply _____ copy/copies of *Bisexual Lives* at £3.40 [Folks you'll need to convert this to \$'s depending on the exchange rate for that day.]

I enclose a cheque for £_____ or \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

United States

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

For Trade Orders contact: Tunaround Distribution, 27 Horsell Road, London N5 1XL, England



THE VOTE IS IN !!



After months of debating, discussing policy, polling readers, waiting patiently for all the forms to come in, and tabulating results, we finally have YOUR answer to the question of whether or not to put men on the mailing list. The criteria for doing so was to be that at least 60% of you voted "yes". In fact, 63% voted YES !



Of those who voted "no", almost 20% said they do not object to men being on the mailing list. They voted "no" because they are concerned about men being allowed to submit articles and letters to *BI WOMEN*.

In actuality, it has been a standing policy for some time at *BI WOMEN* to occasionally publish articles by men, usually bi activists themselves. This policy is not tied to the question of having men on the mailing list. Rather, it is a separate issue, open for discussion and input from our readers.

After a good bit of soul searching, the Coordinating Committee decided to require men who wish to receive the newsletter to pay the full membership price, with the exception of those individuals who in writing request exemption based on need.

Thanks to all of you who responded with articulate, challenging, witty, or just plain good common sense notes and letters. Keep talking to us, about this issue, and whatever else is on your minds!

by Liz Highleyman

The 1989 Fifth Conference on Bisexuality, sponsored by ECBN, was held May 13th and 14th at Harvard University. This was the first such event I have attended, and I was thrilled to be in the presence of over 200 bisexuals and friends from all over the East Coast and as far away as California and Alaska.

The conference consisted of two days of plenaries, workshops, networking, and social events. Saturday began with a general plenary. Stephanie Berger and Alexandra Burack welcomed the attendees, Dean Janet Viggiani, Chair of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues Network at Harvard, gave some opening remarks (including the announcement that the Harvard/Radcliffe Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Students Association, co-sponsor of the conference, had recently succeeded in blocking the reinstatement of ROTC on their campus because of the military's discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation), and Liz Nania and myself spoke on behalf of BiCEP about bisexual visibility and political activism. Recently, bisexuals have become more visible, and the "B-word" has been included in the names of a number of gay and lesbian events and organizations. The time is right to make ourselves even more well known to both gay and heterosexual communities.

The keynote address was given by Lani Kaahumanu, an activist currently living in San Francisco. Lani spoke about the many steps she has taken in the process of discovering her sexual identity. Like many bisexuals, Lani was previously married, and identified for a time as a lesbian before coming out as bisexual. She spoke about the wide spectrum of individuals that make up the bisexual community. As she mentioned the various sub-groups (gay-identified and het-identified, married and promiscuous, feminist and not, s/m and vanilla), applause could be heard from different segments of the audience as participants cheered the groups they identified with. Lani emphasized the need to support each other despite our differences, and the importance of celebrating our diversity.

The variety of workshops included in the conference reflected the wide range of interests of the participants. Some of us are just beginning to acknowledge our bisexuality, while others are out and active as bisexuals. Some of us identify primarily with a gay or lesbian community, while others consider ourselves part of a heterosexual community. Some of us are married, some are involved in alternative relationships, and others are blissfully playing the



Workshop Facilitator Cathy Cummings

field. We are of varying races, ages, religions, abilities, and sexual proclivities, and range across the political spectrum. I was glad to see the wide variety of issues covered, and wished I could have been in more than one place at the same time in order to attend a greater number of workshops.

The Saturday morning workshop session consisted of: Bisexuality and Aging, Disability and Bisexuality, Bisexual Politics, Safer Sex for Men, Bisexual Music and Culture, From Lesbian to Bisexual, Bisexual Women and Heterosexual Pride, and Alternative Lifestyles (Monogamy vs. Non-monogamy). The workshops appeared to be tracked so that there was, roughly, a political, a cultural, an identity-related, and an alternative-sexuality-related workshop, as well as others, in each slot. This made it easy for people interested in one specific area to attend a number of workshops dedicated to those issues, but made it difficult for people that have interests in more than one category.

In the first session, I attended the Bisexual Politics workshop, led by BiPol wonderwomen Lani Kaahumanu and Autumn Courtney. They presented a history of their own activism and of the bisexual political community in San Francisco. We then went around the room and each of the forty participants described the political activities they were involved in. These ranged from BiCEP, to campus-based organizations, to community centers, to specialized groups such as Rock Against Sexism. With this many varied and dedicated activists working on behalf of the bisexual community, we will no doubt become even more vibrant and visible.

An extended lunch break followed the morning session. In contrast to conferences where one must dash from event to event with sandwich in hand, I really appreciated the time set aside to relax and get to know people.

The afternoon workshops session consisted of: Bisexuality 101 (an introduction), Bisexual Married Men, Creating Egalitarian Relationships, The Bisexual/Spiritual Path, Owning Yourself: Feeling Comfortable with S/M, Bisexual Identity and Vision within Gay/Lesbian Liberation, Movement Ritual, and Massage. Having done my political duty by attending the Bisexual Politics workshop in the first session, I was free to concentrate on alternative sexuality workshops for the rest of the conference. I attended the Owning Yourself workshop in the second session. Facilitator [redacted] gave an introduction to the topic, followed by extensive discussion by the participants, who included both interested neophytes and experienced aficionados.

cont. on pg. 10



Lani Kaahumanu (L to R) Liz Highleyman & Liz Nania

photo: Laura Sachs

photo: Laura Sachs

10 CONFERENCE COMMENTS cont. from pg. 9

Naturally, my choice of workshops makes for slanted conference coverage. Much networking and idea sharing went on in the numerous political workshops, and I have been told that the introductory workshops proved very helpful for the attendees who are just beginning to explore their bisexual identity. For many, the conference was their first exposure to the bisexual community.

Following the Saturday workshops, there was caucus time set aside for different groups to come together to discuss their common interests and concerns. The caucuses included people of color, students, and musicians and writers. Also at this time, networking sessions were held for bisexual political activists, and for the various regional groups that make up the East Coast Bisexual Network.

Entertainment Saturday evening consisted of performances by a variety of bisexual artists. These included "The Oxymorons" (Marcia Deihl, Mark DeWitt, Kate Doberoph, and Jeff Fried), a satirical singing group; Norm Davis and Johnathon Keith, performance artists; Alexandra Burack and Peter Szep, performing music of the 20s, 30s, and 40s; Ben Silver-Werbolowsky, a singer with a varied repertoire; and Dennis Pearne and the Elastic Waste Band, performing political and progressive folk music. A dance followed the concert, running late into the evening and providing ample opportunity to meet new friends and to do some networking of a different kind! Other conference participants attended various parties and get-togethers around town, and not a few retired for some much needed sleep.

Sunday's activities began with a brief plenary (sparsely attended since many conference participants were no doubt still in bed), followed by the third workshop session. These workshops were: Bisexuality 101 (a repeat of this popular topic), Safer Sex for Women, Care and Feeding of a Bisexual Network, Out at Work, Crossdressing, Hermaphrodite: The Dual-Sexed Deity, and What Kind of Bi are You - Straight or Gay? I attended the Cross-Dressing workshop, led by Chris Robbins. I found the workshop very interesting and informative, and only wish there could have been more time for discussion.

During the lunch break, the lazier attendees began to trickle in, many bearing harrowing tales of the previous night's activities, and bemoaning the lack of sleep. This was another opportunity to meet new friends and to continue discussions initiated at the workshops.

The fourth workshop session followed lunch, and consisted of: Coed Safer Sex (a first!), Radical Sexuality, Trials of Triads, Omni-Eros, Supporting the Mass. Gay Rights Bill, Bisexual Voices in Literature, and a meeting of the currently forming North American Bisexual Network (NABN). I co-facilitated the Radical Sexuality workshop with David Chapman, in which we explored the political, social, and psychological implications of alternative sexual practices. We realized that the topic was far too broad to cover a single workshop, but we did get to touch on many issues, and the group discussion was lively.

The conference ended with remarks by Woody Glenn and Alan Hamilton, and a closing speech by Cliff Arnesen. Cliff, president of New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans, spoke about the need to build bridges between the bisexual and gay and lesbian communities so that together we may counter the common discrimination we face and work for equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation. His well received talk included some amusing anecdotes of his life as a gay man in the service.

(L to R) David Chapman, Woody Glenn, Alan Hamilton, Cliff Arnesen

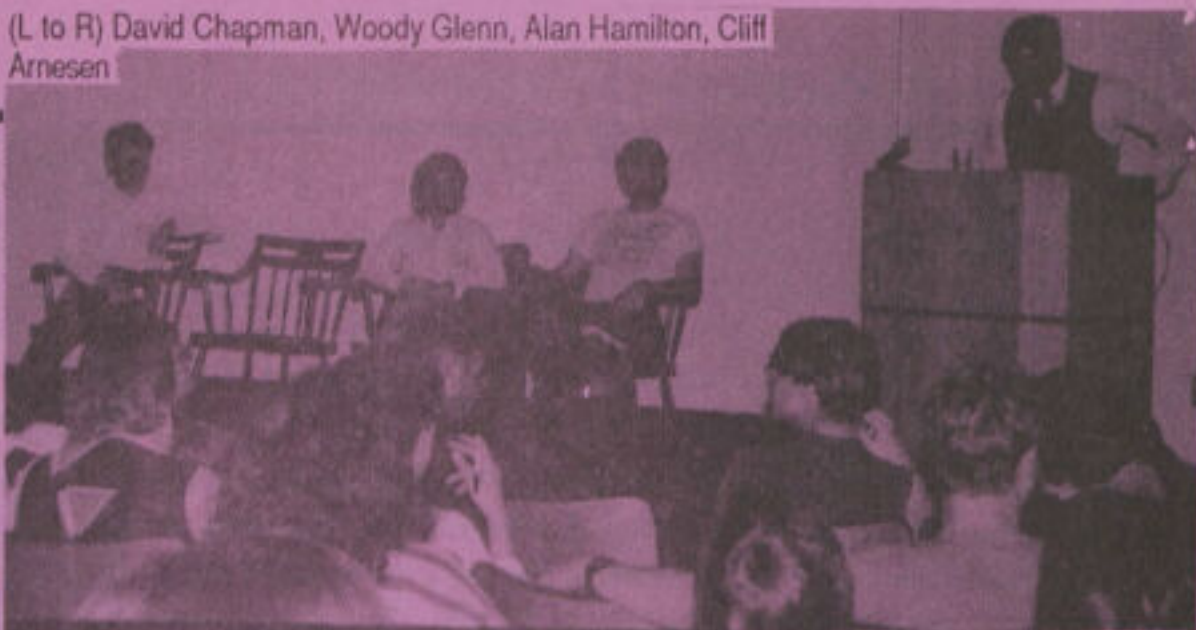


photo: Laura Sachs

Next there was a ceremony to recognize all who have contributed to the bisexual community. These contributions take many forms, including working on a conference, putting out newsletters, working on publicity and visibility, engaging in political activism, educating others about bisexuality, taking part in a Pride march, and coming out to friends, families, and co-workers. The ceremony ended with a rousing group sing led by Ben Silver. We followed the ceremony with a photo session on the steps of Boylston Hall, where we performed the bisexual cheer ("Give me a B..."), just in case any of the onlookers in Harvard Yard hadn't yet gotten the picture!

Overall, the conference was a warm and wonderful experience. It provided an opportunity to learn about bisexuality and the issues that affect our community, to share ideas for bisexual activism, and to make many new friends. Thanks and congratulations are due to the members of the Conference Committee (Stephanie Berger, Ellen Brenner, Wayne Bryant, Alexandra Burack, David Chapman, [redacted], Lucy Friedland, Woody Glenn, Alan Hamilton, and Laura Sachs), and to everyone else who helped to make this such an organized, well-run, and enjoyable weekend.



(T to B)

Ann Goglia,

Robyn Ochs

photo: Marcia Deihl

ANNUAL BBWN PRE-PRIDE BRUNCH

June 10th, BBWN sponsors the Pre-Pride Brunch at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston Street, 2nd Flr, Copley Square, 9am - 11am. Suggested Donation: \$ 5.00 (sliding scale). Women and men welcome.

At 11:30am the Bisexual Contingent of the Lesbian and Gay Pride March gathers at Government Center. Look for the Bisexual Banners!! Bring Bi Pride Signs!! Bring a friend!!

**CORRECTION:**

The article "To Be a Bisexual Feminist", by Beth Reba Weise in our last issue was originally published in *North Bi NorthWest*.



GLOSS stands for Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings. They sponsor monthly potluck dinners and other social events, such as movie night. Bisexuals are welcome. For more information, write to GLOSS, PO Box 1495, W. Somerville, MA 02144.

**Support Group Seeks New Members**

Bisexual Women's support group is seeking new members who are over 30. For more information, call Alice at 848-8151. *Please use discretion when calling.*



Bisexual Support Group seeks new members! We're looking for two women to join us in discussing bisexuality and how it affects our lives on various levels. Call BIS-MOVE and leave a message for Ann Goglia, including your name and phone number.

HOUSEMATE NEEDED:

Fully furnished room in the country. Must have own car. Plainville, Mass, for August 1st. Call Wayne at (508) 695-2794.

The minister of Housing, Wayne Bryant, for the ECBN Conference, extends his heartfelt thanks for all those who provided housing for out of town conference attendees!

TUESDAYS: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP GROUP.

7:30 - 10PM, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., near Central Square. All women welcome. Call the Center for Rap topics at 354-9907.

**WEDNESDAYS: BOSTON'S ALLIANCE OF GAY & LESBIAN YOUTH (BAGLY) meetings.**

New folks -6pm, Separate women's and men's issues groups 6:45pm, General mtg 7:30pm. All mtgs are held at 35 Bowdoin St. Boston. BAGLY is open to all interested youth ages 22 and under. For more info call 354-6658.

WEDNESDAYS: AL-ANON GROUP for BISEXUAL

ADULT CHILDREN of ALCOHOLICS 7:30 pm at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to the emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge 259-1559

Second WEDNESDAY of each month: GAY COMMUNITY

NETWORKING BREAKFASTS, 8 am, at CLUB CAFÉ (Corner of Columbus Ave. & Berkeley St.) Breakfasts are free. Call 437-5870 for dates and questions.

**NEW YORK BIS: When in NYC check it out!**

BI WAYS is a cultural and social get-together group for bisexual women & men.

Activities are once or twice each month, including parties, concerts, "at-home" entertainments and gatherings plus much more. Call (212) 686-5248 between noon and 8pm for dates and locations.

SUNDAYS: BISEXUAL PRIDE FOCUS GROUP.

3pm-4:30pm at the Community Center.

SUNDAYS: Every first Sunday at 4:45pm the BISEXUAL DOMINANCE & SUBMISSION SUPPORT GROUP.

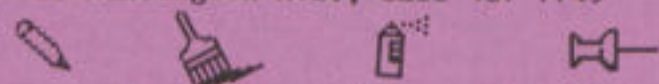
for a sharing of ideas, information and support for S/M, B/D, D/S practices at the Community Center.

SUNDAYS: BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP.

meets every 2nd Sunday at 4:45pm, for sharing Our feelings and validating Our experience.

JUNE 5 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq., Come find out about BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome. Bring a friend. Call 247-6683 for more info.

JUNE 4(Sun) thru JUNE 18(Sun) Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Art Show, sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Art Assoc. at Mass. College of Art. Opening Reception 6/8 at 6-8:30pm, Tower Gallery, 621 Huntington Ave., Call 437-7749 for more info.



JUNE 9 (Fri) Gay Contra Dancing in Providence, RI, 8-11 pm at the Body Lab, 568 S. Main St. Admission \$5. Chem & smoke free. Call Chris (401) 431-0822 for info. and July's dates.

JUNE 10 (Sat) BBWN Pre-Pride Brunch, 9am-11am, at the Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., 2nd flr, Copley Square. Suggested Donation \$5.00. Women and Men Welcome. See pg. 11 for more info. or call BIS-MOVE

JUNE 10 (Sat) 11:30am. the Bisexual contingent gathers for the Gay and Lesbian Pride March, at government center. Look for the Bisexual Banners! For more info see pg. 11 or call BIS-MOVE.



JUNE 10 (Sat) A night of Gay Contra Dancing in Boston, 8-11 pm at the Unitarian Universalist First Church of Jamaica Plain, at the corner of Center & Eliot St.. Admission \$5. Chem & smoke free. Call 321-0567 for more info.

JUNE 14 (Wed) S/M Interest Group Meeting, 8pm. For those interested in discussing S/M and possibly forming support groups. For more info call Liz at 253-6693.



JUNE 17 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch, Come join us for good food and yummy company. Meet under the arch in China-town @ 10:45, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & men welcome. BIS-MOVE, if you have questions.



JUNE 17 (Sat) 2nd Annual New Hampshire Gay Pride Day Activities, Pat's Peak, Henniker, N.H., New England Square & Contra Dance. For information call: Jack (603) 669-0096.

JUNE 18 (Sun) A coed outing to the Computer Museum, 1pm, Meet in the lobby at the Museum, located on Museum Wharf in Boston, call the Museum for dir. 426-2800.

JUNE 19 (Mon) A night to always remember A non-newsletter Volunteer Night at Robyn's house. 7:00 pm. Call BIS-MOVE for directions. It's ALSO the AUGUST/SEPT>Newsletter Deadline!!!

JUNE 24 (Sat) Hartford, Conn. GAY PRIDE MARCH

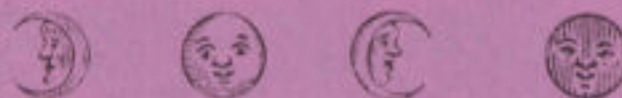
JUNE 24 (Sat) A night of Contra Dancing in Boston with Natucket Sound. See June 10th for more info, directions, and July's dates.

JUNE 24 (Sat) Lesbian Pride 89 with Lavender Jane, Kay Gardner, Alix Dobkin & many more. Washington square Church, 135 W. 4th, tix \$15. for more information call (718) 643-3284.

JUNE 25 (Sun) New York City GAY PRIDE MARCH

JUNE 25 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism, 6-10pm, 1270 Boylston St. All genders and sexual preferences welcome!

JULY 10 (Mon) Coordinating Committee mtg, 7 pm Harvard Yard, Boylston Hall, Rm 2B, All women welcome.



JULY 15 (Sat) Dim Sum Brunch, See June 17th for more info.

JULY 22 (Sat) Coed Picnic at the Hatch Shell, on the Esplanade, noon to whenever. Bring your own picnic (no barbecues please). All Welcome.



JULY 24 (Mon) Volunteer Night at Robyn's to stuff the AUG/SEPT. Newsletter, 7pm. Come to schmooze, meet exciting and dynamic women and help out OUR network. A guaranteed fun night for all. Call BIS-MOVE for directions and more info.

JULY 30 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism, Swing Night, to Benefit BICEP, (Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics, \$2.00 cover, 6-10pm, 7pm Dance Lesson. See June 25th for location.

AUGUST 7 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq., Come find out about BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome. Bring a friend. Call 247-6683 for more info.



UPCOMING EVENTS: Watch for more info.

AUGUST 12 (Sat) BBWN BEACH BLANKET BI-N-GO a Potluck Picnic, 3pm to Dark, Crane's Beach, Ipswich, MA. Walk right for approx. 20 minutes and we'll be there. Bring a friend!

AUGUST 26 (Sat) Coed Picnic at the Hatch Shell.

SEPT. 8th thru 10th, P-TOWN WEEKEND being planned!

BI WOMEN



Photo by Laura Sachs

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1989

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 4

CELEBRATE PRIDE

Jackie Stoll

This year's Boston Lesbian, Gay (& Bisexual!) Pride was a day of real celebration and pride for me. Looking back over the year that has past since the last Pride (my first Pride), so much has changed in my life. Last year I came to Pride after having been in the Network for only a few months. Even though I had come out to myself, very few people outside of BBWN knew about my bisexuality. I went to the march very nervous and scared that someone would see me there. I left inspired by the thousands of people there who were just like me. The joy and acceptance I felt there left me with a wonderful "high" and a determination to be more open about my life.

Over the past year I have learned that "coming out" has been a mixed blessing for me. Being more open has placed new stresses on my relationship with my lover. My parents are now struggling to accept a part of their daughter they find hard to understand. Defining new relationships with co-workers is a challenge. Becoming acclimated with the bi, lesbian and gay community is exciting. Through it all the women I have met in BBWN have become my friends

cont. on pg. 4

ON BISEXUALS in the LESBIAN COMMUNITY

Sharon Gonsalves

(This article was originally published in the May 1989 issue of SOJOURNER:THE WOMEN'S FORUM, and has been reprinted with the authors permission)

On March 2, Mass ACT OUT held a very well attended forum on Visions for Lesbian and Gay Activism in the Nineties. Several of the speakers addressed the need to be open to the diverse groups amongst us, encouraging everyone to speak up about the issues that most concerned them. This left a perfect opening for me and the other bisexuals in the room to make a plea for greater acceptance in the lesbian and gay communities. Fortunately, we didn't have to. One of our lesbian allies did it for us.

This tells me that more and more bisexual women (and I'm only addressing women because of my own experience in the women's community; issues may be similar for bisexual men in the gay community) are coming out to their lesbian friends and educating them about bisexuality. I am ecstatic to see the acceptance growing. It certainly wasn't there five years ago when I came out as bisexual, after being identified as a lesbian for several years. Thanks are

cont. on page 3

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

--5/8/89

Attendees: Lucy Friedland, Ann Goglia, Robyn Ochs, Laura Sachs, Jackie Stoll and Lisa W.

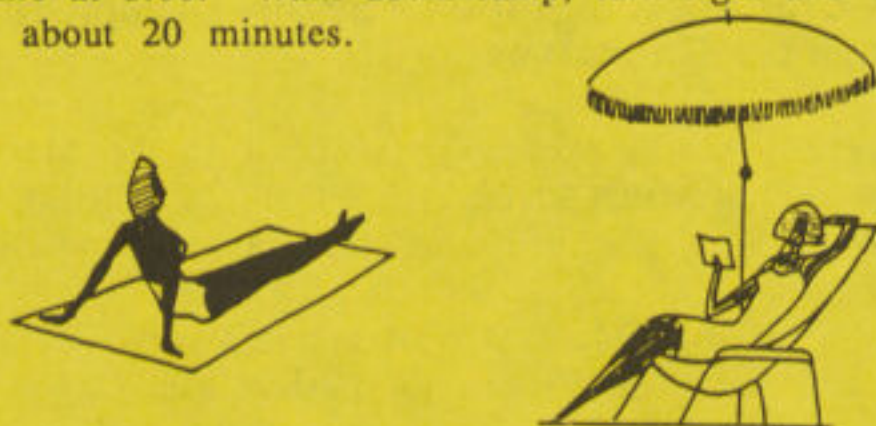
PRIDE\BRUNCH: Brunch is open to both women and men. It was decided to charge \$5.00, but as a suggested donation so those with low incomes could pay less. Sharon G. has agreed to coordinate the brunch this year.

MERCHANDISE: We will have a table at the conference to give out newsletters, buttons, shirts, mailing list sign up. Jackie will help with this. Laura will take merchandise from conference to Brunch, and from Brunch to car parked under Copley. After the March, other people will bring shirts to table on the Commons.

MAILING LIST: We no longer have someone to update and maintain the mailing list. We urgently need someone to take on the list.

BY-LAWS: The by-law guidelines on confidentiality proposal submitted by Lisa were reworded and approved. Twice a year, the CC should reread these guidelines to refresh our memories. Once a year the bi-laws should go out to members.

BEACH PARTY: Beach Blanket Bi-N-Go for Women only--Crane's Beach on August 12th. Potluck picnic at 3:00. Walk down ramp, turn right and walk for about 20 minutes.



MEN ON THE MAILING LIST: Over 60% (63-65%) voted in favor of men on the mailing list. Men must pay at least the sustaining rate to get a subscription. Men may submit articles, but their inclusion is up to the (women) editors. If someone--regardless of gender--submits a letter re-requesting a subscription for inappropriate reasons(out of keeping with the purpose of the network), we reserve the right to send them a letter asking them to reconsider, given the intent of the newsletter. If they write back still asking to subscribe, then we let them subscribe. With respect to men with low incomes as individual subscribers, they will pay the regular price since we do not want the network to subsidize male subscribers, except in special cases decided by the mailing list coordinator or the CC in response to a written petition by the low-income man. Men representing organizations that we want to receive our newsletter will still get the newsletter free.

NEWSLETTER: An announcement will be made at the conference that we need people to write articles about the conference to submit to the newsletter. We will affix first class postage to all university addresses to ensure for-warding of June newsletter. We are experiencing some problems receiving mail at the PO Box--we will keep an eye on this. For newsletter stuff, we should each invite one person we know to attend.

VOLUNTEERS: We will make a pitch at the opening of the conference and at the concert.

BI-RAPS: 20-25 women are attending the Bi-raps at the Women's Center. Many of these women don't seem to know about the network. Jackie and others will try to attend to educate about the network. We decided to leave at least 50 newsletters at the Women's Center every issue.



7\10/89

Present: Stephanie Berger, Heidi Friedman, Ann Goglia, Laura Sachs, Jackie Stoll

THE NEW BOSTON LESBIAN AND GAY CENTER sent us a form for requesting office space which we filled out collectively. We decided it made sense to request to share an office with BBMN, BiCep and ECBN.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS: Jackie agreed to take over from Ann the job of picking up and sorting the mail.(Yay, Jackie!) Ann will be the back up mail picker upper. **WE STILL NEED A TREASURER AND A PERSON TO KEEP THE MAILING LIST!** Also people to take turns answering phone messages.(Great for natural gabbers)

A FUNDRAISER with BBMN was suggested and agreed upon. Our proposal is to have a short concert followed by a dance(much like the format at the conference) and skip the auction this year(whew!).

OUTREACH to newspapers and Bi-Raps was discussed. Dates of our events will be sent to Sojourner, Bay Windows, GCN and What's Left in Boston. Newsletter will be left at the Women's Center.

A BBWN BROCHURE will be put together at the next non-stuff volunteer night(August 21st)--sounds like it could be the place to be....

due, at least in part, to the Boston Bisexual Women's Network for their groundbreaking efforts at establishing a safe place for bisexuals and in educating the public.

One thing that's been really hard for me, and for other lesbians who have come out as bisexual, is experiencing the loss of our community. What may feel like personal growth or a new adventure to me may feel like betrayal to my lesbian friends. Although being seen with a man may make me look like a straight woman (and afford me heterosexual privilege), I feel like a lesbian who's seeing men. I don't automatically fit into the straight world. It's not as though I don't need a women's community anymore.

"Women's community" is often a euphemism for lesbian community. I'd like to challenge the assumption that all women in "the community" are lesbians. Sleeping with men is a taboo subject. Many of us are unwilling to "fess up" because we don't want to be deserted by our friends or ostracized by the community. We've created our own little closet. It's time to come out.



I have gained a lot of strength from meeting with other lesbians who have come out as bi. My support group (the Hasbians) has helped me get back into the lesbian community - a place where I belong.

Understandably, this issue raises a lot of concerns. The questions I get asked most often by lesbians include the following:

1. *Why go back to men?* To begin with, establishing healthy adult relationships with men does not feel to me like "going back". Instead, it's a step forward. I first stopped relating to men, sexually and otherwise, out of tremendous fear and anger. I had been raped by a boyfriend, incested by my father, and was both devastated and enraged. I will never "go back" there again. As a feminist and a lesbian, I've learned a lot about myself: the patriarchy; ways male and female children are socialized; about the oppression of women, people of color, older people, people with disabilities, gay

men, lesbians, etc. I've also learned about what relationships can and cannot be. I relate to individuals, not penises or breasts. I am capable of loving men and women, and they are capable of loving me. I feel like I demand a lot from men who are my friends and lovers, certainly much more than I did my prefeminists, prelesbian days.



2. *It's all right to be friends with men, but why have sex with them?* For the same reason I might have sex with a woman. I'm attracted to her/him, a sexual connection increases the intimacy in our relationship, or maybe just because it feels good.

3. *Why not continue to call yourself a lesbian if your connection to women is still so strong?* In some instances I do. I'm much more likely to refer to myself as a lesbian when I'm with straight people than when I'm among lesbians. Straight folks need to know that there are gays and lesbians among them. I don't want to give straight people the opportunity to feel comfortable with me because I'm "half straight".

Among lesbians, I feel like an imposter. Blending in works sometimes, but when I don't challenge the assumptions made about my attitude towards men I feel invisible. Calling myself a lesbian feels dishonest. It negates a very important relationship in my life, and I don't want to give lesbians the opportunity to decide that I'm really a lesbian, but I just haven't figured it out yet. I am bisexual all the time, not straight among straights and gay among gays.

4. *Why is the label so important?* Labels are important for members of oppressed groups. They create an in-group and out-group, a minority culture from which we derive strength. Using the label "lesbian" in the straight world is as much a political statement as using the label "bisexual" amongst lesbians. Adherence to strict norms is not as prevalent in the lesbian community as it used to be (dress codes, hair styles, eating habits, etc.) Even the "rule" about sleeping with men has loosened up - as long as it's only once in a while, and you're not having a meaningful relationship, you know, just a quick fuck. So is sleeping with women and men and being woman-identified okay if you call yourself a lesbian, but not okay if you call yourself bisexual?

cont. on page 4

and my biggest supporters! Without BBWN I would never have come so far!

This year I couldn't wait to march with the BBWN contingent. Pride Day has really become a holiday for me, a time to celebrate a big part of my life--my bisexuality! The growing Bi visibility at Pride is another reason to celebrate. I'm looking forward to next year's Pride when Bisexuals will officially be recognized and more Bi's will come out and join the celebration!!

BISEXUALS MARCH ON BOSTON

Stephanie Berger

Early, early Saturday morning (earlier than I'm used to) the crew staying out my house awoke. With rain threatening, we brought our umbrellas, to insure a cloudless day, and headed off to Copley Square to the pre-march brunch. By the time we got to there, oh so early in the morning, the fruit salad was almost gone and the place was packed with rowdy bisexuals, our lovers and allies, about 65 to be exact. It was definitely the place to be. Lots of new faces too.

I have to admit, I entered this whole affair with some trepidation. This was my first Pride march as an Out Bisexual. It had been so easy to just blend in as an assumed lesbian. Having gotten so much strength and support from the community and my lover I knew this was the year I could do it. I no longer wanted to hide behind assumptions. I am proud of who I am and I wanted everyone to know. Still I'm glad Alix and Peter were there to hold my hands.

After much food, conspiring and sign making we made our way towards Government Center. What a scene to say, the least. Alan Hamilton from the Men's Network spoke at the pre-march rally, while the rest of us scoped the scene, met old friends, made new ones and generally caused trouble.

Our place in the march was towards the front, with the rest of the deviants, which gave us the opportunity to check out the rest of the parade. And what a parade it was. The sun pulled through and WE looked wonderful. Over 100 folks marched with the Bi-contingent. At least 25% more than last year. And this doesn't include all those bisexuals marching under Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual banners. It looked like a lot more groups are starting to include us. Maybe next year the pride committee will catch on. Our contingent included banners from BBWN, BBMN, BiCEP, the National Bisexual Network, the Valley Bi Network (out of Western Mass), and the Maine Bi Network. As we marched, I felt a lot of positive reinforcement from the onlooker, lots of clapping and cheering.

Once at the common, BBWN, BBMN & BiCEP had a table set up. We signed up a lot of new women, talked shop, sun bathed (giggle, giggle), and did interesting things with bagels; a good time was had by all.

Yawza, watch out world we're ready for ya!

Does the label "lesbian" describe our politics and not necessarily our sexual practices? We should all be proud of who we are, not ashamed about "slipping up" once in a while. Getting rid of labels makes our difference invisible. Instead we should acknowledge and accept them.

5. *Do bisexuals have to be nonmonogamous?* No. Some bisexuals are in monogamous relationships - either serial monogamy, sometimes with a man, sometimes with a woman, or one life-long relationship where calling oneself bisexual recognizes the potential for a partnership with either man or a woman. Some bisexuals are in open relationships where their partners are aware of their other relationships. (Many bisexuals are educated about and practice safer sex.) The kinds of relationships bisexuals have created are many and varied. There's no one way to be bi.

6. *I'm afraid if I become involved with a bisexual woman, she'll leave me for a man. What about heterosexual privilege?* Heterosexual privilege is a reality. Society accommodates and rewards people who are in heterosexual relationships. Some people choose to live the straight life because it's "easier". The promise of social acceptability or marriage and children isn't particularly important or even appealing to me. I don't choose my relationships based on degree of difficulty in moving around the world. If I happen to fall in love with a woman, then I deal with homophobia. If I happen to fall in love with a man, then I deal with sexism. (The outside world will make it easier for me to walk down the street with my arm around a man, but I choose not to, and I often do. Being affectionate in public with my woman lover, I'm still called "lezzie" regardless of my bisexuality.)



Among bisexuals I've seen a wide variety of relationships and lifestyles. We don't all come from the same mold. Hopefully, this viewpoint will start to break down some of the myths and stereotypes about the diverse group of individuals and open up a much-needed dialogue in the women's community about acceptance, sexuality, and intimacy with men.



NOTE: The HASBIANS meet the third Thursday of each month. Call (617) 646-1295 for more information.

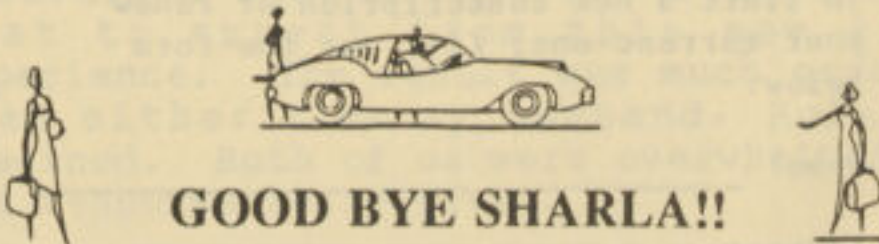


RUMOR HAS IT...



In the Globe's rag mag *Parade*, Sunday, June 11th issue the question we've all been just dying to ask was in fact asked. Was Marilyn Monroe Bisexual? You know it was in that section where folks from towns you've never heard of, write in and ask questions about people you've never heard or hope you'll never meet in your lifetime. Well... the story goes like this - some sweet thing from Nevada heard, from one of those gossip entertainment programs, that Ms Monroe had partaken in an affair with a famous female striptease. *Mercy, mercy...*

Now according to this Globe's reliable source our beloved Marilyn HAD in fact may have "engaged in one or two affairs with people of her own sex..." *Gracious!* Rumor had it that one of the lucky ladies was a drama coach, although Hollywood denies the rumors - But WE know.



GOOD BYE SHARLA!!

I have known no other community that has offered me as much love and support as the members of BBWN, BBMN & ECBN. I love you all and will miss all of you. I hope to arrange visits to the area relatives to coordinate with BBWN/BBMN/ECBN activities, although it may not be possible as Dallas is very closeted. I would like to have PEN PALS, so if you're interested please write!

Sharla Clos

2031 Park Place Blvd, Apt # 1713
Bedford, Texas 76021



TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

BET MACARTHUR, ACSW LICSW
COUNSELING, PSYCHOTHERAPY
CONSULTATION & TRAINING

14 PLEASANT ST.
CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

READERS FORUM

(This letter was also published in Gay Community News, March 26 - April 1, 1989)

Dear BBMN and BBWN,

Please be informed that the New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans would like to extend a warm welcome to our bisexual brothers and sisters. Any bisexual veteran is welcome to join our organization.

It is time that the "divisions and labels" be put aside, so that we can respect and love each other's right to love and be loved by whomever we choose. I tend to think that one's sexual preference or orientation runs on a "continuum," and a person should not be tagged with a "label."

We, as gay and bisexual human beings, must not think in terms of black and white, because of the rigid restrictions it implies; rather we must think in terms of "Grey," or a blend and mixture of perceptions, thoughts and feelings, and love.

The process of socialization and sexual orientation are interwoven. They produce the many ways that men and women learn how and whom to love. In short, there is no universal "map" on loving. And for this reason, each and every one of us is, indeed, "unique." And that individuality must be respected.

Please let brothers and sisters know we are here and they are welcome. If I may be of assistance in any way, please let me know.

In the larger and total picture, we are all in this together, because we all experience the same oppression and alienation from "straight society" that is so destructive to our collective well-being. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Cliff Arnesen

Editors Note: Since receiving this letter in March, Cliff is proud to announce the addition of Bisexual to the his organization. The New England Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans can be reached at PO Box 1392, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117. Women veterans are strongly encouraged to join!



CATHY MCDERMOTT, ACSW, LICSW

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

SUITE 83
875 MASS. AVE.
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

497-0539

READERS FORUM

Dear Boston Bi Women!

Hi! I got a copy of your Oct/Nov 1988 newsletter from a friend, Karl, in Canada.

You're the first bisexual women's group I've made contact with, which is pretty exciting for me!

I am bisexual too, and am living with a man, and our daughter, Hazel. He's bisexual & involved in the gay (men's) community here. I have some great friends who are involved in the lesbian community, but I am excluded from it myself because of all the usual myths - sitting on the fence; using/abusing lesbian energy etc. etc. Somehow the man I live with doesn't get any flak going to gay men's things!?!

Anyway, I'm not writing you to complain, but to contact you...

Also, I'm keen to start a bisexual women's group here, so any tips would be appreciated.

I'm also an anarchist-feminist, so any like-minded women are most welcome to write to me!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Jo Davies
PO Box 63
Hamilton
New Zealand



Dear Bi Women,

... I particularly enjoyed the article by Beth Reba Weise "To Be A Bisexual Feminist" in the April-May 1989 issue. She expressed a lot of things that I have felt for a long time. I know I've been "passing" as lesbian among a good many women in my community. How do you go about saying "By the way - I know you think I'm lesbian, but I'm not", to people? I still remember one woman's face when I said "Well I've really gotta go, my husband's waiting for me in the car." She was literally speechless!

Anyway, you've got a nice little newsletter going and it sounds like your organization's active, vital and doing productive work. Keep it up....

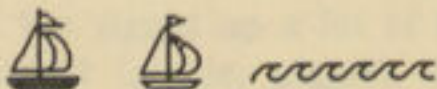


Urbana, Illinois

HOUSEMATE WANTED



Ecofeminist women's cooperative seeks 2 women starting September 1st. Sunny house with porches near Davis Square and T. \$300 +utilities. Call 623-0703.



SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

A new mixed-gendered Bi S/M Support Group is forming and seeking members. For more information, call Sian or Erica at (617) 497-7389. *Please use discretion.*



Bi Women

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To start a new subscription or renew your current one, fill out the form below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

☐ New subscription

☐ Renewal

Check one:

☐ No Income (\$0-\$7, sliding scale)

☐ Low Income (\$7-\$15, sliding scale)

☐ Regular Member \$16

☐ Sustaining Member \$25

☐ Near Goddess \$50

☐ Matron Saint \$100

Note: Mailing list is confidential.

Moving? Please give us 4 weeks notice:

B.B.W.N.

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140
(617) 247-6683

SUPPORT YOUR NETWORK!



PRIDE DAY MARCH REFLECTIONS of a PROUD MOTHER

Carolyn T. Glenn

When my husband said he wanted to march in the Pride Day parade in support of our son, Woody, I surprised myself by saying I wanted to march also. I really felt proud of Woody, the courage of his choice, the dedication to this cause, and his hours of work toward it. I knew I didn't believe in it or fully understand it, but I believed in him and his right to choose his life-style. We have, as a family, always supported each other through many life experiences.

As the day approached I thought, "Am I really going to march in a Pride Day Parade?" Well, I had always been a believer in human rights and freedom of choice and I lived those beliefs in my own professional and personal life. Why not support this cause?

However, I was nervous and didn't know what to expect from this new life experience. The result was much greater than either I or my husband, Roland, imagined. Both of us were overwhelmed by the response we received.



It was not just that we were Woody's parents. It was a great and loving outpouring of appreciation for being there. At the brunch I was approached by one and then another and yet still another young woman expressing their desire for their mother's support. "I tried to get my mother to come, but she would have none of it." "I thought I had my mother with me but she finally let me down." I sensed a real yearning for their mother's support and love. I was touched by this expression and my heart ached for them and for their mothers. How could they let their daughters go? I could never lose a child because of a difference of belief or life-style.

Another expression of appreciation was for "straight" support and how much it was needed. Then a suggestion came to make a poster to carry. It had never occurred to us. What a good idea. Why not broadcast what we were doing? How right it turned out to be.

At Government Center I was overwhelmed by the size of the crowd and the numbers of different representative groups. The parade started. Roland and I pulled Woody between us and held our posters high. Suddenly, there was applause and smiles from people watching the parade and seeing our posters. I began to watch the faces of the many people who filled the sidewalks as we walked along. First surprise, then applause and cheers, block after block. There were no negative reactions.

The best moment of all was when a young man came up behind me and said, "Would you consider adopting another son?" I replied "Yes" without any hesitancy.

These many efforts to communicate meant to me that there was a longing for parental support. Do the parents know how much their children want it?

Later at home, my daughter called me. She had seen us and the posters on the TV news. I told her all about the day. She said, "Mom, I'm very proud of you."

I don't know when I have felt so good about doing something. Roland and I both felt that we had received much more than we had given.

* Woody is a member of the Boston Bisexual Men's Network.



Photo by Laura Sachs

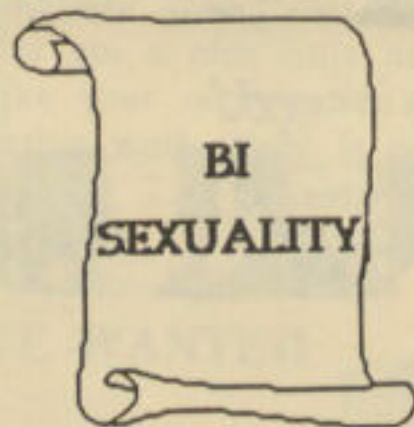
DOMINO'S DENIES NOW ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES

In May, 1988 Domino's Pizza denied the Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County Chapter of NOW the right to hold a hayride fundraiser at their corporate headquarters, even though they allowed "Right-to-Lifers" to do so. NOW was told they could not use Domino's public facilities because the owner of Domino's Pizza, Tom Monaghan, is religiously opposed to NOW's support for abortion rights. As a result, Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County NOW filed a complaint with the Michigan Civil Rights Department charging Domino's with violation of Michigan's Elliot-Larson Civil Rights Act.

THE OWNER OF DOMINO'S CONTRIBUTES THOUSANDS TO ANTI-CHOICE CAUSES

On Nov. 8, 1988 a proposal to outlaw Medicaid funding for abortion services passed in Michigan. Tom Monaghan, the owner of Domino's Pizza, donated over \$50,000 to "The Committee to End Tax-Funded Abortions."

Let your local Domino's franchise know how YOU feel, spread the word and BOYCOTT DOMINO'S! For more info contact your local NOW chapter.



A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

For Info, Send

SASE To:
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P.O. Box 20917
Long Beach, CA 90801-3917

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Carolyn Glenn

Jo Davies

Jackie Stoll

Ann Goglia



HONOR ROLL

To all those who helped the BBWN in June and July, may all your summer fantasies come true, and on that particularly bad day may you come home and be met by your dream date and be fed peeled organic pro-union grapes, one by one scrumptious grape at a time.

Linda H.	Chris S.	Pam L.
Robyn O.	Jackie S.	Laura S.
Sharon G.	Ann G.	Heidi F.
Stephanie B.	Liz N.	Lucy F.
Marjorie B.	Liz H.	Sue W.
Ellen B.	Ruth L.	Sharla C.
BiCEP	Alix B.	Claire M.

The wonderful women who carried the BBWN banner, to all those who helped set up the brunch, the the anonymous women who updated the "BI BOOK" at the Women's Center

And a special round of applause to all those who came to the pre-Pride Brunch, who marched in Gay Pride as OUT Bisexuals and those of us waiting till next year, and to all those who write us whose letters never make it into print. We're BEAUTIFUL!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

RELATIONSHIPS WITH A CAPITAL R

* A Workshop for growth and change for Bi's in committed relationships

Sunday, August 20th, 10:00am to 5:00pm in Reading, MA.

An area of general interest at the ECBN conference was relationships. What complications does being Bi add to a relationship and what can we do about it? How can being Bi make a relationship better? A series of workshops are planned to explore this topic further.

Come to Reading, spread out on the grass in small groups of 8 to 10 for a day-long series of workshops. Explore yourself: sex roles, stereotypes, how you really see yourself. Explore your side of the relationship: why are you in it, why are they in it. Explore the larger relationship: other friends and lovers, jealousy, sex vs. companionship.

Come alone, or preferably, with your significant other. Bring something appropriate to share for a picnic. We will provide coffee, tea, pastries, paper plates, utensils, etc. Bring a chair or blanket. Requested donation is \$2.00. For more information call MaryJoan at (617) 944-7220.



FALL FUNDRAISER

Let's hold a fundraiser for the Bisexual Community to benefit the various Boston based groups! The concert and dance which we held during the conference was quite well received, and auctions held in the past by BBWN have also been quite successful. Consequently, my idea is to do a combination Concert, Dance, Auction. Perhaps if you have other ideas to suggest... If we start planning now, we can have it near National Coming Out Day in mid October. If you're interested in working on a Fundraiser for the Boston Bisexual Community, call Woody at (617) BIS-NOTE (247-6683), as soon as possible. No prior experience is necessary.

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

As of July 1, 1989, Boston has a new Gay Community Services Center at 338 Newbury Street (2nd Floor). Ann Sanders (the Mayor's Liason to the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Community) is looking for volunteers to staff this summer and fall for 2-hour periods, as well as other tasks. For more information, call her at City Hall (617) 725-3485.

HELP WANTED

Imagine a month without *BI WOMEN*, no new members... no, anything but that may be thinking! well unless more folks volunteer this could be true!

So get on the phone right now and call BIS-MOVE to sign up for any of these wonderful and exciting opportunities.

MAILING LIST: We need someone who will oversee the mailing list. This means updating the list, printing out labels and so on. You do not need your own computer or any knowledge of computers, we will be happy to train you! This is a highly confidential position, therefore, to make things simpler we are seeking someone in Boston proper.

TREASURER: This job takes approximately 3 hours a month. You do not need any prior experience, perhaps only that you know how to balance your checkbook. We will train.

PHONE/ANSWERING MACHINE ANSWERS: We are looking for one woman a month to retrieve the messages on the answering machine. This can be done a couple times a week, you'd then pass on info to the various folks. Laura has volunteered to train all those interested.



ONGOING:

TUESDAYS: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP GROUP,

7:30 - 10PM, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., near Central Square. All women welcome. Call the Center for Rap topics at 354-9907.

WEDNESDAYS: BOSTON'S ALLIANCE OF GAY & LESBIAN YOUTH (BAGLY) meetings. New

folks -6pm, Separate women's and men's issues groups 6:45pm, General mtg 7:30pm. All mtgs are held at 35 Bowdoin St. Boston. BAGLY is open to all interested youth ages 22 and under. For more info call 354-6658.

WEDNESDAYS: AL-ANON GROUP for BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN of ALCOHOLICS 7:30 pm at Mass. General

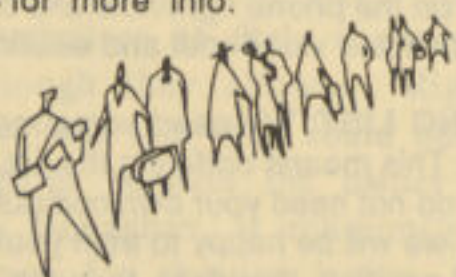
Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to the emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge 259-1559.

Second WEDNESDAY of each month: GAY COMMUNITY NETWORKING BREAKFASTS, 8 am, at CLUB CAFÉ

(Corner of Columbus Ave. & Berkeley Str.) Breakfasts are free. Call 437-5870 for dates and questions.

CALENDAR

AUGUST 7 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq., Come find out about BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome. Bring a friend. Call 247-6683 for more info.



AUGUST 9-13 (Wed-Sun) Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Contact WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458, (616) 757-4766

AUGUST 10 (Thurs) Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics (BiCEP) mtg, 7:30pm. Boylston Hall, room 2B, Harvard Yard. BiCEP works to increase Bi visibility in the straight and gay Communities, and works in the struggle for Bi & Gay Liberation. All women and men welcome. For more info call BIS-MOVE



AUGUST 12 (Sat) BBWN BEACH BLANKET BI-N-GO a Potluck Picnic, 3pm to Dark, Crane's Beach, Ipswich, MA. Walk right for approx. 20 minutes and we'll be there. Bring a friend! Women Only.

AUGUST 18 (Fri) Fundraiser for the The New England Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans at Club Café, 8 --11pm For a night of Gay Games (Jeopardy) \$5 cover (The corner of Columbus Ave & Berkely St) Call 437-5870 for info.

AUGUST 19 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch. Come join us for good food and yummy company. Meet under the arch in China-town @ 10:45, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & men welcome. BIS-MOVE, if you have questions.



AUGUST 20 (Sun) Relationships with a Capital R, 10am -5pm, Reading, MA. Call MaryJoan at (617) 944-7220 and see pg. 9 for more info

AUGUST 21 (Mon) Volunteer Night, 7pm, at Robyn's. We will be writing up a brochure about the BBWN. A time to find out about the network and be a part of planning for our future. Call BIS-MOVE for directions.

Also, the DEADLINE for the OCT/NOV newsletter!

AUGUST 24 (Thurs) Gay Lesbian Speakers Bureau mtg, 7pm at Bill Bartnert's house, 97 Trowbridge St., Cambridge. The topic CHANGING THE NAME OF THE SPEAKERS BUREAU TO INCLUDE BISEXUAL. For more info call 354-0133.

AUGUST 25 thru 28 (Fri-Mon) South East Gay and Lesbian SUMMER DANCE CAMP '89, Otter Lake Environmental Conservation School; Greenfield, N.H. \$95 per person (Includes all meals workshops, dances and lodging. Call Phil & Steve (617) 277-5909 more more info.

AUGUST 26 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Picnic at the Hatch Shell, on the Esplanade, noon to whenever. Bring your own picnic (no barbecues please). All Welcome.

AUGUST 27 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism Tea Dance, 6-10pm at the 1270 (on Bolyston St, between the Fenway and Park Drive) Everyone is welcome for this evening of fun in a non-sexist and non-racist environment. \$2 Donation requested.



SEPT 8-10 (Fri-Sun) Famed Bisexual Provincetown weekend, folks are expected to make find their own accommodations, but activities will be coordinated. For more info on the weekend and car pooling call BIS-MOVE.



SEPT 10 (Sun) Lucie Blue Tremblay, 7pm at the Sanders Theater. Tix \$14.50 Adv; \$15.50 at the door. Call 661-1252 for more info or pick up tix at the usual spots.

SEPT 11 (Mon) Coordinating Committee mtg, 7pm, Harvard Yard, Boylston Hall, Rm 2B, All women welcome.

SEPT 15 (Fri) OVA in concert with Laura Wetzler and The Nervy Girls, at 7 Temple St., Cambridge. (1 block from Central Sq T) \$10 Adv; \$12 at door. Women Only. Call 643-3354 for more info.



SEPT 16 (Sat) Dim Sum Brunch, See Aug. 19th for details.

SEPT 21 Thurs) Gay Lesbian Speakers Bureau monthly mtg, 7pm. Topic and location to be announced. Call 354-0133 for all the info.

SEPT 24 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism Tea Dance, See August 27th for more info.



SEPT 25 (Mon) Volunteer Night, Come to Robyn's for a night of "girl talk" and to stuff the most happening newsletter in town. 7pm. Call BIS-MOVE for directions.

OCTOBER 2 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq., Come find out about BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome. Bring a friend. Call 247-6683 for more info.

BI WOMEN

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1989

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5



Are You Suffering from the BLA'S?

New Disease Discovered in Bi Population: The Bisexual Label Avoidance Sndrome

In Commemoration of the Opening of the New Gay, Lesbian (and Bisexual) Service Center and National Coming Out Day, October 11.

By Lucy Friedland

Ever notice how so many bisexuals refuse to call themselves bisexual? Many people who lead bisexual lives would rather call themselves nothing at all before calling themselves bi. Now some people are simply anti-label. You ask them why they don't call themselves bisexual, and they tell you that labels are too limiting. That they don't want to exclude themselves from any groups of people. Other people aren't anti-label *per se*, they just don't like the "b" word. They say they can't relate to it, that they don't even know what it means. You even come across certain "extreme" types, who definitely aren't squeamish about labels given that they adopt other stigmatized labels like sado-masochist, anarchist, pagan or punk, but even THEY wouldn't call themselves bisexual.

I recently co-lead a workshop on bisexuality at an anarchist conference in San Francisco. About 45 people showed up. I thought, "Wow, what a great chance to get some discussion going on bi politics." I figured these people were "radicals,"

cont. on page 3

BEING PART OF A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

Robyn Ochs

There's this fantasy I've had for a very long time. The only problem is that I'm not at all sure of the best way to go about making this fantasy a reality.

Here's the issue: Let's say that a certain loosely structured organization dedicated to a good cause has a lot of work that needs to be done every month. My fantasy is very simple. Rather than have a few people doing a lot of work, I'd like to see a lot of people doing a little bit of work.

Toward this end, we've been moving toward breaking down a lot of our operations into bite-size pieces. The treasurer's job, for example, requires just a couple of hours per month. The woman who picks up the mail each week from our mailbox has a couple of hours of work each week. Our mailing list coordinator probably has about 3-4 hours of work each month. The woman responsible for returning telephone calls from BIS-MOVE has about an hour of work each week, and we've further divided this job by putting it on a rotation system: each volunteer commits herself to 1-2 months

cont. on page 5

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Sept. 11, 1989: Attending - Laura Sachs, Robyn Ochs, Lucy Friedland, Ann Goglia, Stephanie Berger

MGLPC FLYER: Possibly having a flyer about the gay rights bill in our next mailing.

BI LAWS UPDATE: The entire set of bi laws were handed out and perused. Lucy and Ann will be proposing an update to be gone over next mtg.

VOLUNTEERS: We need a volunteer coordinator. A volunteer option form is now part of the membership renewal form, in order to better tap into potential volunteers. At our next mtg we will go over responses. We have a new Treasurer, Mailing List Coordinator, and 5 or so new Phone Women.

TREASURERS REPORT: As of Sept 14th we have a balance of \$3,188.14.

OFFICE in NEW COMMUNITY CENTER: We've rented an office for the Bisexual community at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center (GLCC). Our first years rent has been guaranteed by ECBN. There was discussion about financial responsibility. Lucy raised concern about the office in terms of what is BBWN's responsibility to the center, ie additional financial responsibility, board & tenants mtg's, center projects etc. as well the Center tapping into an already limited amount of bi energy and resources. There was discussion on this. It was suggested that Liz Highleyman be the BBWN rep to the tenants council, if she would be willing to attend C.C. mtg's. (More on that in the next *Bi Woman*.)

GAY & LESBIAN SPEAKERS BUREAU: will be voting on Nov 16th the change the name to include Bisexual. In order to join the Bureau you just need to go through the training - see the Calendar (pg 10) for more info.



BBWN's Bi-Laws

For those of you who are new to the Network, as well as for those of you who are unfamiliar with our bi-laws, following is our statement of purpose. This statement (with the exception of the italicized words in the last sentence) was written back in 1983. If you have any suggestions for improvement please let us know, as we hope to update and re-ratify our bi-laws sometime this year.

The purpose of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network is to bring women together in order to:

- 1] provide a safe environment which will enable all women to explore new sexual options without feeling pressured to commit themselves to a particular sexual orientation or lifestyle, and which will support and validate the self-acceptance of bisexual women. Such an environment is currently difficult for women, be they bisexual, lesbian or heterosexual, to find. The Network is committed to making this environment available to and safe for women of all classes, races, ethnic origins, religions, marital status, ages and abilities.
- 2] organize and empower bisexual women to struggle within the gay community for full acceptance, and within the society as a whole for the acceptance of bisexuality and the liberation of all gay people.
- 3] serve as an umbrella organization for support, discussion, education, outreach, political action and social groups related to bisexuality and to facilitate their formation.
- 4] facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on sexual options both locally, nationally and internationally.
- 5] provide social functions for its members and their friends as a means of building bisexual solidarity.

This Network shall not be operated for profit. No part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual.

While the Network itself excludes men, some of its functions may be open to men at the discretion of the Coordinating Committee, *and men may receive our newsletter by paying the equivalent of a regular membership.*



they must have some juicy stories of bisexual derring-do, not just between the sheets but protests, visibility actions, guerilla theatre and the like. Well, no such experiences surfaced in the workshop. These people wanted to talk about other things – their relationships, monogamy vs. nonmonogamy, the nature of desire. But mainly, what I heard was a long litany of reasons why people didn't want to call themselves bisexual. A number of self-defined "pansexuals" were sitting there, but out of the 45 people, very few felt comfortable with a bisexual label, and many felt they had nothing in common with people they know who call themselves bisexual. I was pretty floored considering this was billed as a workshop on bisexuality.

I don't think these negative feelings about the word "bisexual" are confined to anarchists. In fact the BLA'S, the Bisexual Label Avoidance Syndrome, seems to effect a large segment of the bi population. Now, I believe that everyone has the right to label or not to label themselves. We don't need a bunch of politicians becoming the Label Police. But the consequences of the BLA'S – invisibility, discrimination, biphobia – are truly damaging. Until more of us start taking on the bisexual label, the growth of the bi community and bi political movement(s) will be stymied. A catch-22 is operative. Many people aren't taking on the label *because of* the lack of a visible and diverse bisexual community and culture. So our numbers stay small. I sense that the root cause of the BLA'S lies in issues of self-definition and coming out, so we'd better start there.



So What's "Bisexual Identity?"

I don't want to draw up a prescription for bisexual identity. I'd just like to describe some of the difficulties that have beset bisexuals in arriving at one all-encompassing definition. Most gays and lesbians don't have self-definition problems. They would say that being gay means having an erotic preference for members of one's own sex. Ask 10 bisexuals, and you'll get 10 definitions of bisexuality. One obvious definition is someone who has erotic and/or romantic attractions to people of either sex. Funny though, that doesn't work for a lot of people. It's too broad. Some people don't want a label based on their potential – what they could be doing – but based on what they're doing right now. *Current* lovers have a huge influence on what people call themselves. For instance, many people wouldn't call themselves bisexual if they had a sexual relationship with someone of the same sex five years ago if they're married now, even if it *was* a significant relationship. Other people define themselves by their strongest pull. So they might call themselves gay or heterosexual, not bisexual, if they are "mostly gay" or "mostly straight."

Because most people think of sexual orientation in dichotomous gay/straight terms, bisexuality is often understood by what it's not, instead of by what it is. Bi's have very strong opinions about what they're not: they're not necessarily attracted to both sexes equally (though some are); they're not necessarily non-monogamous (though some are); they're not necessarily involved with a man and a woman at the same time (though some are); they don't have to have an even number of male and female relationships over time (though some do); and they're not just going through a phase (though some are). These assertions are a way of responding to the negative stereotypes that abound about bisexuals, that we're confused, fence-sitting sexual opportunists. Well, sometimes we *are*, but not always and not all of us.

So what statements can we make about bisexuals that are true for all of us? Precious few, if any. No wonder there's no common understanding of what the label means. Nevertheless, we need to keep mapping out our own bisexual identities as individuals. We need to name those aspects of ourselves that mold our bisexual identities and start to take pride in them. Here are some things I've discovered to be central to my bisexual identity: I think of bisexuality as a separate and equal sexual orientation. My bisexual identity is not a watered down version of a gay/lesbian identity. Regardless of who my sex partners are, I'm always bisexual. I haven't felt in flux since 1983 when I found out that you could have a bisexual identity. (Thanks to BBWN.) Maybe someday I'll call myself a lesbian, heterosexual, or "pansexual," but I find that hard to imagine. For me, part of claiming a bisexual identity means acknowledging the important roles that both male and female lovers have had in shaping who I am. I can't deny my past. Nor can I limit my future. If I am monogamously involved with someone now, that doesn't mean my potential to be with the other sex is gone forever. Claiming a bisexual identity affirms that I have the right to choose who I want to be with sexually, despite the expectations of both the gay and heterosexual worlds.

Even though I hope these things are true of many bisexuals besides myself, I wouldn't set them out as prerequisites for a bisexual label. Even though we experience a thrill of recognition when we meet or read about other bisexuals, I don't think we can expect all bisexuals to be like ourselves. The attitudes that have us looking for our own likenesses in other people prevent us from seeing the complexity, richness, diversity, and yes, the ambiguousness, of bisexual people. Coming to a fuller appreciation of these qualities would go a long way towards enhancing our bisexual pride.

Come Out as Bisexual? You First, Bucko!

I don't believe the appropriate response to bisexual invisibility is browbeating people and routing them out of their closets. Many people who lead bisexual lives prefer to call themselves gay or lesbian and have intentional political reasons for doing so. But, a lot, yes a lot, of people don't use the label because they want to pass in heterosexual or gay or lesbian contexts.



cont. on page 7

Dear BBWN,

Surprise! Half a dozen questionnaires filled in by (some) members of the Wellington Bisexual Women's Network.

I picked a copy up off Claire Thompson while in London on holiday. (I used to be the bisexual women's contact in London a few years ago, but I'm now living in New Zealand again.)

I gave one to a friend who was visiting from Melbourne recently, so you may get some responses from Australia too!

We've started producing a very amateurish newsletter in Wellington. If the next one is half readable I'll send it over to BBWN and suggest we do a swap.

Yours in sisterhood,
Diana S., Wellington New Zealand

[Note: I've written back to her and asked for a contact address for her group as well as a newsletter exchange.
--Robyn Ochs]



SURVEY UPDATE

Thanks to many of you, responses have been pouring in fast and furious. So far we have about 200 returned questionnaires. A brief glance through the growing stack shows responses from the US, Canada, New Zealand and England. Many respondents have written long and interesting comments, some of which will be reprinted in future issues of *Bi Women*. Survey results will be studied and statistic-ized later this fall and winter, and we will report results to you as they are available. So far two members have volunteered to analyze the questionnaires. Anyone else interested? If so, call BIS-MOVE and leave a message for me and a telephone number I can call you back at.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RETURNED YOUR SURVEY, IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SEND IT IN. IF YOU NEVER RECEIVED, OR HAVE MISPLACED YOUR SURVEY, WE CAN SEND YOU ANOTHER COPY. Again, call BIS-MOVE and leave your name and address. Keep them coming.

CATHY MCDERMOTT, ACSW, LICSW

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

SUITE 83
875 MASS. AVE.
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

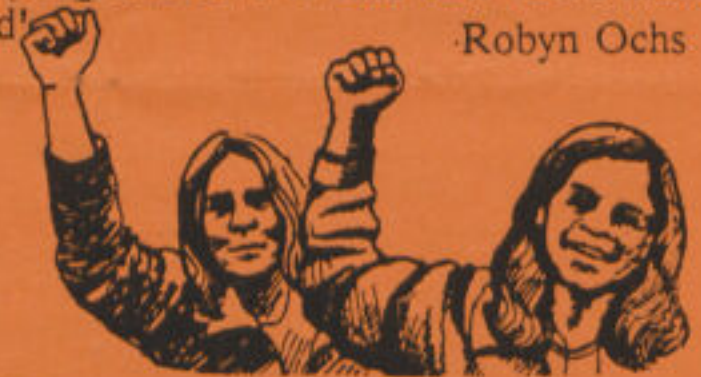
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MASSACHUSETTS GAY RIGHTS BILL

It is looking more and more likely that the State Senate will vote on the proposed Massachusetts gay rights bill this year, following final debate of the bill in September. This bill, which has been introduced for 17 consecutive years (it's almost old enough to vote!) has been stalled, filibustered, and otherwise delayed year after year.

CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR NOW, and urge her/him to vote for the bill, which will prohibit discrimination against people like us in areas of credit, employment, housing and public accommodations. If you don't know who your State Senator is, you can call the Senate clerk at (617) 822-1276 to find out. Let's make our voices heard!

Robyn Ochs



NYC GRANTS RIGHTS TO UNWED PARTNERS

Employees of New York City who are part of an unmarried couple will be recognized as "domestic partners" and be entitled to the same bereavement leave previously granted only to married couples. Mayor Koch issued an executive order recognizing "domestic partners" as two "close and committed" unmarried adults who have lived together for at least a year. Both same and mixed sex couples are covered under this order. To be eligible for bereavement leave, which is provided after the death of a partner's parent or child or of a relative living in the household, couples must register their relationships with the city. A similar bereavement law passed by San Francisco's Board of Supervisors was suspended last month after a petition drive gathered enough signatures to put the measure on the November ballot. (AP)



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Alexandra Burack

Historically, Connecticut bisexual activists have played a key role in the development of Bi networking throughout the New England region. In the early 1980's, Hartford was chosen as the site for one of the first bisexual conferences designed to draw people from all over New England. From 1980 - 1984 Hartford also saw the development of a vibrant bisexual women's support group. Increased visibility of bi outreach and networking effort have raised dramatically the level of activism for the bi agenda throughout the state, as evidenced by several heartening developments over the past year.

Formal proposals have been brought before the CT Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights - the largest gay/lesbian/bisexual organization in the state - and the CT Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival to officially add the word "bisexual" to these organizations' names and policies. A similar proposal is also before the student run gay/lesbian organizations at the University of Hartford and Trinity College. Wesleyan University continues to set the pace for integrating bi concerns into a holistic gay/lesbian/bi agenda, and has served as a model for other campus groups. Out bisexual women and men, (including veteran community organizer Alix Burack), have held visible positions in various gay/lesbian organizations including, The Greater Hartford Bisexual/Lesbian/Gay Community Center; Alternatives: The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Cultural Organization; and the CT Lesbian & Gay Anti-Violence Project.

The bisexual agenda was also very prominently placed in the March 6th Annual New England Lesbian & Gay Student Union (NELGSU) Conference held at the Univ. of Ct/Storres. Alix and her co-leader Peter Szep, made conference history by facilitating the first workshops ever offered on bisexuality. Over 150 people attended Bisexuality 101 over the two day conference. A formal proposal was presented to the NELGSU Board to officially include the word "bisexual" in the organization's bylaws and statement of purpose.

Sizable CT bisexual contingents have made regular appearances at such venerable bi gatherings as the ECBN Retreats and Conferences, various NE Pride marches and at various regional conferences.

Plans are currently in the works to start a Connecticut Bisexual Network. Ideas and person power are needed to make this network become a reality. although the network would be headquartered in Hartford, there is particular interest for outreach and networking to rural areas. Anyone interested in helping to get the Connecticut Bisexual Network off the ground should contact Alix Burack at 62 Arkay Drive, Higganum, CT 06441.



and then passes it on to the next volunteer. People are needed to co-edit the newsletter. And for people who want to be involved in the newsletter in a smaller way, we need people to write for the newsletter, type it, lay it out, edit specific features (i.e., the calendar or letters to the editor). If you live far away, consider writing an article or a letter about what things are like for you as a bisexual woman in your community (or about anything else). We're always looking for people to help organize social events. Think about volunteering now to help organize our (almost) annual auction/dance (next spring), or the brunch before the march (next June) or setting up and/or staffing a bi table at a conference (like the Unity & Diversity Conference this coming October in Amherst). And then of course there's Volunteer Night, for those who want a one-shot, one evening commitment.

You'll notice on your membership renewal form that we've included a check-off list for volunteer work. Please take this list seriously. The only way we can do everything we want to do is with your help. Think about it: A LOT OF PEOPLE DOING A LITTLE WORK. Don't forget, the network is us, not someone else.



A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

For Info, Send

SASE To:
Gibbin Publications
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Long Beach, CA 90801-3917

Networks Find A Home

Members of the BBMN

The Bi Networks have found a home!

As of September first, the East Coast Bisexual Network (ECBN), the Boston Bisexual Men's Network (BBMN), the Boston Bisexual Women's Network (BBWN), and the Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics (BiCEP) are occupying an office in the new Boston Lesbian and Gay Community Service Center. A Bi Al Anon group may also join us.

Our new office will provide several benefits. It will provide a stable, supportive, attractive, and accessible meeting place. Network activities such as newsletter layout and mailing, general and Coordinating Committee meetings, and BiCEP and ECBN meetings are moving there. It provides a home base for the networks: a place to keep the wealth of informational literature we distribute; merchandise such as the Bisexual Pride T-shirts, buttons, and stickers, which have been a terrible hassle to locate and transport; and especially our archives, which are presently overflowing several individuals's houses. It will be a place where new people can drop in and talk about bisexuality face-to-face. It will strengthen our ties with the gay and lesbian community, buying credibility and providing a means to counter biphobia via outreach and education, and allowing us to build political and work relationships with other groups in the Center, such as the Pride Committee (which organizes the annual Pride March). It will help create a stable sense of bisexual community in Boston.



The Center is at 338 Newbury Street in Boston. It's on the second story of a renovated Victorian building; the Trident Bookstore Cafe is on the first floor. It has eight offices, a lounge, conference room, a meeting room large enough for 75 people, and a kitchen. It is wheelchair accessible. The center's central phone number is (617)247-2927. However, the bi networks will continue to use our old number (617)BIS-MOVE (247-6683).

Fundraising

As mentioned earlier, the networks need to raise a couple thousand dollars to cover the office's rent and operating expenses. If you would like to make a contribution, please write a check to the East Coast Bisexual Network, and send it to ECBN, P. O. Box 1645, Cambridge, MA 02238.



Staff Our Office

Our office will be staffed with network volunteers most weekday evenings. Volunteers will answer the phone—so you can count on reaching a real live person instead of leaving a message on BIS-MOVE. Volunteers will also return the calls left on the machine during the day, and will provide information for people who come into the office itself, answering questions about the bi community and distributing literature. Keeping the office open will provide substantial visibility in the gay and lesbian community.

If you're interested in staffing the office a couple nights a month or so, consider volunteering! The person to talk with is Woody Glenn, at (617)266-1410.

Also, we need office supplies, especially a four- or five-drawer filing cabinet. If you have one you can donate, please do!



COME AND SEE OUR NEW BI COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICE AT THE NEW GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER ON NEWBURY STREET!

We'll be having a reception and get-together to talk about how we want to use this space. If you are interested in volunteering, or just have ideas or want to see our office or the Gay/Lesbian Community Center, please come. A good time will be had by all. This event will take place on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 at 8 p.m.** The Center is located at 338 Newbury Street (2nd floor), in Boston (near Tower Records & Mass. Av.). For more information, call BIS-MOVE.

They don't want to draw attention to their bisexual lifestyles or potential. They don't want to bring negative stereotypes down on their heads. These are strong incentives to stay closeted. But closets aren't right for everyone. Here's three things we can do: 1) try to understand where we and others are in their coming out process (it is a process, it doesn't just happen once); 2) help each other overcome the fear and obstacles to taking the next step; and 3) create a world that is a better place for people to come out into.

We could examine our passing attitudes. What are we getting and what are we giving up by passing as heterosexual or gay? How often are we silent when assumptions are made about our sexuality? How often do we play the game of leaving out names, genders or pronouns when we mention our lovers? Even if you don't like labels and you don't claim one as your own, that doesn't mean you aren't given one anyway. As Beth Weise wrote in Seattle's *North Bi Northwest* (6-7/89 issue): "Not declaring an allegiance is a non-decision because society will simply classify us by whomever we happen to be sleeping with at the time despite our own feelings about the matter."

October 11th is National Coming Out Day, the 2nd anniversary of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay (and Bisexual) Rights. What better occasion to declare our allegiance, to take the next step in coming out? Every step, no matter how large or small, is an act of heroism. I have faith that each person's coming out helps some bisexual somewhere in the universe have an easier time of it. Through the efforts of many courageous bi's, the bisexual label is gaining more and more acceptance despite the BLA'S.



So, Are We Community Yet?

One obstacle to coming out is the lack of a solid bisexual community. When people come out as gay or lesbian, often a gay community is waiting to embrace them with support, love, approval, opportunities and resources. The extent of this community, of course, depends upon where the person lives. I don't think, for example, that there are many perks to coming out as a homosexual in South Asia or even West Virginia. But for bisexuals, often there is absolutely no one or nothing to come out to. In fact, by coming out as bisexual, people usually put at risk their acceptance in the gay and lesbian community as well as other minority communities, be they sexual, racial, religious or political.

The bisexual community in Boston is a brand new beast. Since the Networks came into existence, we have made great strides in creating support systems for bisexual people. But, let's face it - the Boston Bisexual Women's and Men's Networks aren't household names for the vast majority of people in this town, even for the vast majority of bisexuals here. Because of the expense, we aren't even listed in the phone book yet! The Networks are made up of many wonderful, caring people and are lifesavers for me, but I'm not sure how great the allure of the Networks is to newcomers. I hear disturbing stories of people who attend a Network function, and in spite of our best intentions, they walk away saying, "I have nothing in common with these people." We can't please everyone, but we ought to be engaging more people than we do. What can we do to better serve the needs of bisexuals? What are the tangible benefits of the Networks besides their newsletters? How do we create a visible community that can be a home to many people and to many types of people?



We are in the beginning stages of achieving these goals. East Coast Bisexual Network (ECBN) conferences further the growth of the community. The bi contingents in Lesbian and Gay Pride marches do too. The office for the Networks in the new Gay and Lesbian Service Center is an asset. But an office alone, does not a community make. We have to publicize that office. We need to reach out to all kinds of bisexuals and not just bisexuals that may be passing in the lesbian and gay community. We have to find ways to make more people feel welcome and supported. We need to find ways of letting that huge, heterosexist world out there know that a bisexual community is being formed by the minute, and we are proud of our identities as bisexual people.

On this eve of the opening of the Gay, Lesbian (and Bisexual) Service Center, maybe we can ask ourselves what our vision of a bisexual community is. Personally, I want diversity. I want big numbers. There will be no real building of community if what we really mean by "community" is "club." In order to draw people in, we need a bi movement, that is visible and vocal about being bisexual. I want recognition that bisexuality is really and truly a distinct sexual orientation. And who do I want that recognition from? I want that from bisexuals. Even more than I want that from gays, lesbians or heterosexuals. I want bi's to get over the BLA'S, to come out and say, "Yeah, I'm bisexual. I'm proud of that identity. That label means something to me, and I'm willing to get loud, brash and unruly about it." Until more bisexuals are willing to do that, for themselves and for all of us, there won't be a cozy bisexual community waiting for any of us by the time folks are finally ready to call themselves bisexual.



A brochure will soon be available from BiCEP (the Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics) called "Fifty Ways of Coming Out: A Guide for Bisexuals" Call us at (617) BIS-MOVE or write BiCEP (c/o BBMN, P.O. Box 1645, Cambridge, MA 02238) for your free copy.

This article would have been nowhere without the help of Stephanie Berger, Donna C., Zachary G., and especially Liz Nania, in sorting through these ideas. Everyone is encouraged to write in with their own thoughts. Thanks for reading this far.

Ann Goglia

Hello...this is Ann Goglia writing, the newest in a series of co-editors, brought to you by the BBWN via *Bi Women*. This is my third issue as co-editor. When I first started helping out with *Bi Women* about a year ago, I had never worked on a newsletter before, to say nothing of editing one! After "apprenticing" for several issues, I had the opportunity to try co-editing, and decided to go for it. It was a little scary taking that step, but one I'm glad I took. I've had lots of fun mixed in with a little frustration, and I've learned a lot.

How did I get involved with the network to begin with? I joined a mere year and a half ago, shortly after moving to Boston from a small city in upstate New York. I had heard about the BBWN from a friend before I moved to Boston, and was thrilled to find an active bisexual community. (I think I knew the all the out bisexuals in Binghamton--all three of them) After attending an Intro Meeting at the Women's Center, I started attending Volunteer Nights. I found them to be a great place to meet people and socialize. In between the stuffing and sticking, there was plenty of time for comraderie and exchanging zingers.

I also joined a support group which met on a monthly basis, giving me a safe place to discuss being bisexual with other bisexual women. This group supported me through some landmark events, such as coming out to my parents, and walking in my first Gay Pride March (June 1988).. This last event was made particularly uncomfortable to me as the march took us in a square around the neighborhood in which I work. Having a group of friendly, simpathetic women to march with made all the difference to me!

The more people I met in the network, the more comfortable I became, and the more events I attended. By the time I went to the Bisexual Retreat a year ago, I had a least nodding acquaintance with many of the active people in both networks. I was truly beginning to feel a sense of community in which I felt at home. I had been involved with various other organizations, but it is the Bisexual Networks which have provided me with a space to explore my identity as a person, and discover just how much being bisexual is core to my being.

What's the point of presenting you with *Ann's Involvement in the BBWN: A Brief Herstory*? I have been involved on many levels in the network, from picking up the mail to co-leading workshops. I have had the desire to give back to the community which has given me so much, and yet still maintain a balance of giving and receiving. I know there is a fear of being asked to do too much, that you don't have time. But if you choose work that is rewarding to you, and make your limits clear to yourself and others, burnout can be avoided!

So much for moralizing...my ulterior motive for this inspirational piece is a very personal one. My darling co-editor is leaving for Down Under for six months, and I need help with the newsletter. Talk about setting limits! There is no way I can do this newsletter alone! No help, no newsletter! If you all want to continue to see this newsletter come to you on a regular basis, people need to join in and make it happen. If interested check off Newsletter on the renewal form or call BIS-MOVE and leave me a message. I'm looking forward to working with you...

Stephanie Berger

It's hard to believe I've been co-editing *Bi Women* for exactly one year now. It's just as hard to believe it will be my last one. (At least for a while.) Last right folks, by the time you get this issue I'll most likely be mid flight between NY and Melbourne Australia. Eeck! You know how it is.. I've heard there are all these rock'in bisexual women in Australia and I just couldn't resist. No seriously... I will be joining my lover in Melbourne mid October. But of course while I'm there who can resist kicking up a little dust. I figure I'm one in a long line of co-editors that have head off to Australia for love and adventure. This is not to say, however, if you join Ann in newsletter production plans for Australia are a pre-requisite, but you know you can always look me up..

This being my first anniversary I feel I can reflect a bit on what/how I envision *Bi Women*, and where it/we can grow. You know all the things on my wish list, say like catered production mtg's, mid-session back rubs, etc... Working on the newsletter has been one of the highlights of my 1 1/2 years in Boston. It plugged me into what was going on in the Bisexual scene; how we, Bisexual women were defining ourselves, the big issues in ours lives, our coming out stories, our joys and our defeats. It also gave me an opportunity to talk about one of my favorite topics Bisexuality. *Bi Women* is OUR voice. I like to look at it as a running dialogue. A chance to work through those burning issues and to share our stories. I know these discussions do happen, around the kitchen table late at night, at meetings, over dinner, in bed. But for many of us who may not be in support groups, in Boston proper, or for some reason or another don't or can't come to BBWN events the waves of these discussions are never felt.



One thing I've learned as co-editor, being privy to a lot of the mail and other newsletters that come in [the newsletters, by the way, are available to all. And as soon as we move into the Community Center they will be in a centralized place], is that we span the spectrum.; many of us are just coming out and many of us have been out for awhile and so on. What I'm trying to say is that we have a lot to teach and learn from each other. And that *Bi Women* can and is that forum for these kind of discussions.

As Bisexuals, as women, as a community there are issues that we must deal with on a basic level; on an everyday level. We don't have to do it alone. To affect real change we can't. This is an opportunity for all of us to share resources and grow.

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CO EDITORS: STEPHANIE BERGER
ANN GOGLIA

LAYOUT: ANN GOGLIA
STEPHANIE BERGER
CHRIS MCGEE

TYPISTS: ROBYN OCHS
LUCY FRIEDLAND
STEPHANIE BERGER
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DIANA WELLINGTON ALEX BURACK
STEPHANIE BERGER ANN GOGLIA

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO LIZ NANIA FOR MANY OF
THE GRAPHICS IN THIS ISSUE

I'm So Glad . . . cont. from pg. 8

If you're sick of having us rant and rave at you - tell us, if you agree with a letter - tell us; how has AIDS affected your life - tell us; a coming out story - tell us; oh.. and erotic stories and poetry are more than welcome. You get my gist... And if you write us only once we won't always expect you to write every issue. Just think we have 750 or so folks on the mailing list, that's roughly 700 articles. (This would make Ann very happy as well.)

Deadlines and space considering, I'll rap up with a giant I'll miss you and I've enjoyed working and carousing with all the women I've worked with in BBWN. Don't worry I don't plan on disappearing - I'm hoping to report back on what's going down (no pun intended) in the Bi scene Down Under (I'm sure there is another pun in there somewhere). And I hope to be at the International Conference in San Fran in June. And from what I hear, with a entire contingent from Australia (Go Romani!). BYE ALL !!!



HONOR ROLL

SIGH! I wish I could PERSONALLY thank each and everyone of those wonderful scrumptdelicious women who helped the Network out in some way for the months of August and September. Just give me one night... SIGH!

Marge L.
Jackie S.
Stephanie B.
Laura S.
Claire M.
Sue W.
Marjorie B.
M.C.D.
Pam L.
Liz N.

Heidi F.
Deirdre S.
Ann G.
Martha C.-C.
Chris M.
Christina S.
Robyn O.
Marcia D.
Liz H.
Lucy F.



ONGOING

TUESDAYS: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP GROUP 7:30-10 pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Str, Central Square. All women welcome. Call the Women's Center for weekly topics 354-8807

WEDNESDAYS: BOSTON'S ALLIANCE OF GAY & LESBIAN YOUTH (BAGLY) meetings. New folks -6pm, Separate women's and men's issues groups 6:45pm, General mtg 7:30pm. All mtgs are held at 35 Bowdoin St. Boston. BAGLY is open to all interested youth ages 22 and under. For more info call 354-6658.

WEDNESDAYS: AL-ANON GROUP for BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN of ALCOHOLICS 7:30 pm at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge 259-1559

Second WEDNESDAY of each month: GAY COMMUNITY NETWORKING BREAKFASTS, 8 am, at CLUB CAFÉ (Corner of Columbus Ave. & Berkeley Str.) Breakfasts are free. Call 437-5870 for dates and questions.



October 2 (Mon) BBWN Introductory Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq., Come find out about BBWN, theories of Bisexuality and meet interesting women. All women welcome. Bring a friend. Call 247-6683 for more info.

October 11 (Wed) NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY. Come out, Come out Where ever you are!!



October 13 (Fri) Swingtime: Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Swing & Ballroom Dance, 8:30pm - midnight. Free lessons 8:30-9:15 pm. Admission \$4. Located at "Ballet, ETC" at 185 Corey Rd, 2nd Flr. Brookline. Casual Attire: leather soled shoes advised.

October 14 (Sat) Gay & Lesbian Speakers Bureau (GLSB) Training, 9am - 5 pm, at the Church of the Covenant at the Corner of Berkeley and Newbury St, Boston. Call Mona for more info and to register at 354 - 0133. Training is required to join the Bureau.

October 14 (Sat) Boston Gay & Lesbian Contra Group, 8pm - 11pm at the First Church of Jamaica Plain, corner of Centre and Eliot Sts. Cost \$5. No experience is necessary. For more info call Phil 729-9206 or Scott 536-2014.



October 16 (Mon) Deadline for Dec/Jan Newsletter

October 16 (Mon) Bisexual Community Group, 8pm at Ann G.'s house. Call BIS-MOVE for Directions. This group is formed to discuss issues of Bi lifestyle and building Bi Community. Open to women and men.

October 21 (Sat) BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch. Come join us for good food and yummy company. Meet under the arch in China-town @ 10:45, average cost \$6-8/person. Women & men welcome. BIS-MOVE, if you have questions.



October 24 (Tues) ECBN OPEN HOUSE, 8pm -10pm. BBWN, BBMN, and BiCEP are sponsoring a reception and get-together. See pg. 6 for more info.

October 28 & 29 (Sat & Sun) Unity & Diversity: Creating Culture: A Festival of Performances, Exhibitions and Participatory Events. Hampshire College, Amherst MA, call (413) 592-6431 for more info. NOTE: There is only one openly Bisexual women leading a workshop, and are no specifically Bisexual workshops or Events.

October 28 (Sat) Boston Gay & Lesbian Contra Group, Halloween Dance, costume optional. Live Band Nantucket Sound. See Oct 14th for all the info.

October 28 (Sat) Libana Album Release Celebration, 8pm Somerville Theater. For more info call 524-6698.

October 29 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism Tea Dance, 6pm. A tea dance open to all in a non-sexist & non-racist environment, at the 1270 Club, 1270 Bolyston St, Boston, between the Fenway and Park Dr. \$2 donation requested.

October 30 (Mon) Non Newsletter Volunteer Night, 7pm at Robyn's, call BIS-MOVE for directions. Come meet new women and have fun. ALL women welcome.



October 31 (Sun) HALLOWEEN



November 3 (Fri) Swingtime, see Oct. 13th for more info.

November 5 (Sun) Mercedes Sosa, 7pm Symphony Hall, tix \$15-25. Call 661-1252 for info. Tix available at the usual spots.

November 4 (Sat) Boston Gay & Lesbian Contra Group. See Oct. 14th for all the info.

November 12 (Sun) Women's Rights Rally in Washington DC, sponsored by NOW, call your local NOW Chapter.



November 13 (Mon) Coordinating Committee mtg, 7pm, Harvard Yard, Boylston Hall, Rm 2B. All women welcome. We will be going over the Bi-Laws and the volunteer forms.

November 16 (Thurs) GLSB mtg to vote on adding Bisexual to to their name, 7pm at Robyn's. Note: you must be part of the Bureau to have a vote, so take the training and join. See Oct 14th for training info.

November 18 (Sat) Dim Sum Brunch. See Oct 21st for more info.

November 18 (Sat) Boston Gay & Lesbian Contra Group, International Folk Dance Party. See Oct 14 for all the info. There will be Instruction.

November 18 (Sat) Holly Near & guests, 5:30 & 9pm, Kresge Auditorium, MIT. Tix \$14.50-16.50. Call 661-1252 for info.



November 26 (Sun) Rock Against Sexism Tea Dance, see Oct 29th for more info.

November 27 (Mon) Volunteer Night, 7pm, at Robyn's (Call BIS-MOVE to confirm location) Come stuff the Dec/Jan Newsletter, and hang out with rock'in women. Get Involved. Bring a friend.



December 2 (Mon) BBWN Intro Meeting. See October 2nd for info.

February 2-4 (Fri-Sun) Maine Bi People's Network Ski Weekend. Call the MBPN at (207) 766-5572 for more info

Bi Women

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 6 DECEMBER 1989 - JANUARY 1990



THE ECBN OPEN HOUSE--

"IS THIS A PARTY OR A MEETING??"

Ann Goglia

The ECBN said it was having an office-warming party at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center on October 24th. I arrived at the Center after a hard day at work, expecting a pleasant, relaxing social evening. Instead--I got a meeting. After I recovered from my initial disappointment, and was able to switch from social to meeting mode, I realized that there were issues relating to the Center that we needed to discuss.

Woody Glenn and Lucy Friedland facilitated the meeting, which started off with a history of the Center, and our involvement with it. Next on the agenda was the answer to the burning question--What is this ECBN anyway, and how does the bi community fit into it? Robyn Ochs explained that the East Coast Bisexual Network is the umbrella organization for BiCep, BBWN, BBMN and all the other East Coast Bi-Networks. The ECBN sponsors conferences and retreats, although it is generally a committee of individuals from one or two networks that actually puts on these events.

The ECBN received a sliding grant of \$1200-\$2400 to open the office and get a phone line. We pay \$100 dollars a month which entitles us to half of an office, plus limited access to meeting areas. Woody's (or anyone else's) volunteer hours at the Center at the front desk win us extra meeting time. Among the benefits that come to us from the office at the Community Center is having a wheelchair accessible, public meeting place which is cat-free! The office is also a great way to be more visible in the gay and lesbian community, to disseminate our literature, and to be able to answer the network's phone in person.

As with TV shows, this is a pilot or trial period for the ECBN office. Whether we stay "on the air" will depend on the expense and the amount of fundraising we can do to cover that expense, weighed against the benefits of having the office. It was pointed out that we need to seriously think about how much time and energy we want to put into the Center, as many people already feel spread thin. To counterbalance that fear, others pointed out that having the office may generate new volunteers for the networks.

The Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Women's Network

P.O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

Dear Folks,

I want to thank all of you from BBWN and BBMN who came out on September 28 to see my "Still Ain't Satisfied: Songs of the 70s for the 90s" folk music concert at New Words. I looked forward to the experience of being a "Live Bisexual on Stage", as a poster from London in the BBWN/BBMN office proclaims. But when I came to the song where I thanked all my communities, past and present, I left out the bis! I thanked leftists, folkies, women, lesbians, recovery programs, my parents, my friends, and my ex's (one of each gender was there that night). But I forgot the bis!



I know some of my friends in the audience were disappointed, but not half as disappointed as I was! I didn't do it on purpose; maybe my subconscious had its own agenda. I was intending to send this tape--uncut--to my parents as a way of coming out (as anything!). The lesbian thanks was there, but not my ever-increasing, all-important, most recent identity as a bisexual. I had a whole rap about how we're not on a fence, but traversing a field, how we need to add a third identity and a new word "les-bi-gay" to the community, and how a "both/and" mentality instead of an "either/or" mentality could only be enhancing to everyone. But I left it out. Even though I sang Norm Davis's "200 Percent Song" (which I call the Bisexual National Anthem) and Joanna Cazden's wonderful "Song for Left Handed Rights" which includes a verse about a babysitter who's "ambidextrous", I never said the B-word. And I had just finished co-writing an article on "Biphobia" with Robyn Ochs!



To be fair, I had to cut about half of what I planned for the entire show as I went along, because I do have a tendency to preach and overplan. But I really was sorry that I left that part out. And especially after reading Lucy Friedland's great article on using the B-word, I wanted to write this letter to



say: Next time, come hold cue cards for me!!! None of us is immune from internalized biphobia. This concert was part of a process, and I have learned from it, which is all one can ask from a typically challenging and creatively evolving bi life. I don't feel "guilty" or "bad" or that I'm being confessional here. I just want people to know that I owe the bi community a lot and I intend to say so in my music! I look forward to more bisexual cultural events, and hope to be a part of many of them. Such "tribal celebrations" are my most joyous and empowering moments these days.

Thanks,

Marcia Diehl



Hello BBWN!

Thought I'd slip a quick note in along with my renewal.

Keep up the good work in Boston. Sorry I can't sign up for any volunteer stuff, but it's too far a commute from Illinois.

And a quick hello (as I promised I would) to all the wonderful women I got to meet at the Michigan Women's Music Festival--Nancy S, Sue and Majorie there in Boston, Karen, Caton, and Carmon, Carol and Sherry, and Hi to Helena, too, if she's getting the newsletter now. Looking forward to seeing you all next year!

Laura



TELEPHONE (617) 498-9923

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CENTRAL SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

continued from page 1

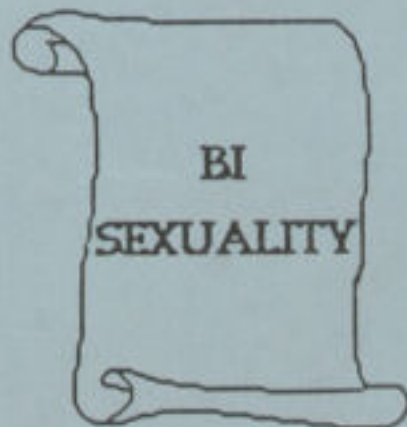
While not all the issues brought up were resolved, most of the people attending the meeting were supportive of the decision to give the office a try. It was suggested that some kind of "Nielsen ratings" be provided, perhaps in the form of quarterly reports, in order to have some way to monitor the success of the office.

At last--time for the party!! Great food, some "cross-gender" lip synching to an aria (you had to be there), Marcia Diehl's wonderful singing, "bisexual" cake--with chocolate and vanilla triangles--and the company of some of my favorite bi's--what more could I ask for? So was it a party or a meeting? Will I sue for false advertising? No--it's my bisexual network--I think I'll keep it.



LIVE BISEXUAL WOMEN TO ANSWER BBWN PHONE LINE!!!!

Beginning in January, our new office at 338 Newbury Street in Boston (off Mass. Ave., near Tower Records) will be staffed by BBWN volunteers every Monday evening from 6-9 p.m. This is the time to stop by to read the newsletters of other bi groups. Buttons & T-shirts will be for sale in the office. You can call in and speak to a real human being instead of a machine, or you can drop by to say hello. Our phone number is (617) 247-6683.



A NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

For Info, Send

SASE To:
Gibbin Publications
P.O. Box 20917
Long Beach, CA 90801-3917

TWO BIS TO MICHIGAN

Marjorie B.

Sue W.

Making our way to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, we pull off the road at a small diner looking for coffee and a bathroom. "Hi, girls!" says a woman who looks like she might be going to the festival. We join this woman from Kentucky and her companion at a table, and get a preview of what's to come from two experienced festival goers.

We are wary of the rumor that there might be some trouble between the separatists and other festival goers. It makes us wonder if we will be welcomed as bisexuals at the festival - and get a chance to celebrate our bisexuality.



After traveling what seemed like hours on dark country roads - several wrong turns bring us twice by a deer - bright signs and balloons finally welcome us to the festival. We find the "bathrooms" immediately. Even port-a-janes seem nice after the long drive.

Even though it is 1 a.m., we must attend orientation, choose work shifts, and then take the shuttle over to our campground. We set out in search of the quiet camping area to set up our tent at 2 a.m. The section is not so quiet, as some women jam well within earshot until 5 a.m.

Sue coaxes Marjorie out of "bed" at 8 a.m. to move the tent - in the dark we had placed it in the path - before running over to a workshop on bisexuality, one of a few offered at the festival.

Here many of the women are not involved with a bi group and are grappling with the lack of community and support, as well as with the challenge of understanding their own identity.



Sue talks of Boston's networks and shows off her "Bi Pride" T-shirt to much applause. Why didn't we bring newsletters and other bi materials with us? We meet a woman from Ottawa doing research on bisexuality and an actor from Nashville.

On to lunch - vegetables galore - and the search for some shade at the day stage. It is extremely hot. Later we find out that the rumors about the showers are actually true - one would have thought that ice cold water would have been more manageable on a hot day!

We rush through our dinner to get to our work shift in the kitchen. While we eat, a woman from Australia tries to convince us that the admission charge is padded for profit.

But the women who coordinate the kitchen tell a different story. They explain the "herstory" of the land, how Boo and Lisa were 20-year-olds who wanted

cont. on pg. 4

to have a festival some 14 years ago. The first festival was held with a modest crowd of women and each year grew.

The two eventually bought the land, enabling improvements each year, such as easier access for those with disabilities, and better food. Most of the workers are volunteers and a few work for minimal pay, but much satisfaction.

Through our work shift in the kitchen we get a chance to see how one small part of the festival runs. The work can be as heavy duty as you are up for. Beans for our night's meal have been cooked in large vats over a sunken coal pit, where a fire burns throughout the festival. One worker, Jean, shows her stuff by cleaning these huge bean pots. Sue and another women restack enormous 50 pound bags of carrots.



The next morning after a good night's sleep, we join the bis for a breakfast gathering - one is held every day - and again compare notes about resources and experiences in different parts of the country. Some bis discuss meeting for other events - like at the night stage.

We set out on our own bi visibility campaign: Sue wears her Bi Pride T-shirt. Some women smile, while others look away. At least we are making people think about us.

It's a lazy morning. We listen to music at the day stage and then check out the women's craft market. The brightly colored clothes, pottery and jewelry show the range of talent of these women artists. We can't resist and buy ourselves some new clothes.



We are treated to entertainment from a variety of cultures. At the afternoon acoustic stage - the nicest stage because of its natural kettle bowl shape - we hear a women's kletzmer band. It is an amazing moment when many of the women jump up to dance the hora. It's a nice way to welcome the Sabbath.

We catch part of a play about Asian women's experiences, "A Song for the Sansei." But we decide to leave early to attend Sabbath services - only a half hour's walk away. It's wonderful to share the Sabbath with this group of women under the trees. A woman rabbi and candles complete the scene.

Afterwards we get an informal lesson on Israeli dance - courtesy of some members of Libana, whom we saw perform the previous night. After being introduced to this group that sings songs from all over the world, from Bulgaria and the Middle East to Bolivia, we vow to catch them again in Boston.

On Saturday, we once more have breakfast with the bis. We listen to a woman who says she wants to start a national newsletter. We wonder about the effectiveness of outreach thus far, however, since many aren't aware of existing newsletters or plans for the national network. We are grateful for living in Boston where there is already an active community. It's a shame that the energy of these women is not being adequately tapped.

Later we check out a "town meeting" on racism held in response to complaints by women of color that the festival does not welcome a wide enough range of women.

We hear African-American, Native American, Mexican-American and Asian women speak. In small groups we talk over suggestions for making the festival less racist. It is encouraging that about 500 women have shown up with a lot to say.

At the acoustic stage we hear a wonderful tribute to Pat Parker, an African-American poet who recently passed away. The tribute includes some of her poems, personal reminiscences and a drama/dance performance called "Movement in Black."

At a Havdalah service we say good-bye to the Sabbath - and the festival. We must head back to Boston after the night performance in order to be at work on Monday morning.

We go to the night stage with a bit of joy and sadness; our experience at Michigan has been wonderful and we don't want to leave yet. We tried to come out as bisexual to the handful of women that we met and generally speaking, reactions were positive. Yet we wondered what other women would have thought had they only known.

Our journey back from Michigan begins on dark, fog-covered roads as if the line we cross is not one of states but one of fantasy back to reality.



Dear ECBN:

This letter is to formally request that any "surplus" funds in our ECBN account be allocated as scholarships for bisexual people of color and PWAs to enable both of these groups' attendance at the June 1990 conference in San Francisco, as well as to facilitate advertising efforts about the availability of this resource to these segments of our bi community.

This letter is also to discuss /explain my reasons for proposing the above and to invite and request further dialogue on this.

As I've already expressed to some of you personally, I was troubled and offended by several incidents of racism I witnessed or overheard at the May conference at Harvard. These incidents consisted mostly of negative attitudes and stereotypes expressed about black people. These beliefs were expressed by seasoned bi organizers core to our group. I'm not even saying they were conscious or intended; that's not the point. The effect is the point. The effect is that we have a weaker, more monolithic, more limited network because of it.



I certainly feel the limits and harm of institutionalized racism myself--both as a white woman with non-white partners and as the ECBN Steering Committee member in the Washington, D.C. areas... [This especially disturbs me when] I realize how many people of color are not a part of Bi-Ways in DC--a city that is 70% black and therefore how inadequately I am representing this bi heritage and cultural diversity that could enrich us all. This was particularly brought home to me upon my return from the conference, in June, when I read a report of the annual international AIDS conference at which one presenter reported that the incidence of bisexuality is even higher in non-white communities than gayness is...This is why it is doubly important for us to take this challenge to integrate our network seriously and to not perpetuate the same racist mistakes that the women's and gay and lesbian movements have made before us.

Yesterday The Washington Post published the results of a new national study on race relations in the U.S. It showed something about the gap in white and

black beliefs that I think is very common to our network too: blacks and whites have greater contact now (than 10 years ago), but sharply different views on what's happened and what needs to be done to gain equality in this society. While white attitudes have somewhat improved, many whites also believe black progress has gone "too far". (Give me a break!) ...The survey pointed out that "while whites tend to respond literally to what is asked, the response of may blacks is deepened by their direct daily experience with the practical results of past white racism: poverty, poor housing, inferior schools and inadequate health care." And I would add--the fear and anger and damage to self-esteem insidiously re-enforced by incidents such as Howard Beach, Bensonhurst and campus hate crimes which re-occur all too frequently in this present climate of intolerance.



My only point is that we STOP seeing the bisexual community or our membership as white and stop seeing racism as someone else's cause to fight somewhere else some other time. People of color are not special exceptions or additions to "us".

This is an issue that any bi movement must address...I'm not talking about good-will gestures, I'm talking about thorough and on-going self-examination and re-orientation of resources and consciousness towards addressing and changing this racism among us and beyond us. Don't be afraid. We CAN call it that and still trust and struggle, sometimes even disagree, and come out even stronger because of it.

There are models all around if only we sill tap them. Once we see that racism pervades every level and aspect of our movement, as well as our society, we can begin changing. But denial won't do. It hurts too much.

I look forward to hearing your responses to this soon.

cont. on page 6



continued from page 5

"...Not needing to clutch for power
not needing the light just to shine on
me
I need to be one in the number
as we stand against tyranny.
We who believe in freedom cannot rest
until it's won.
Struggling myself don't mean a whole lot
I've come to realize
That teaching others to stand and fight
Is the only way our struggle survives.
Until the killing of black men, black
mothers' sons
is as important as the killing of white
men, white mothers' sons
We who believe in freedom cannot rest
until it's won..."

Bernice Reagon
Sweet Honey in the Rock

peace,

Louraine Hutchins



Dear BBWN Women,

When I'm confused about others,
renewing my BBWN membership is very
clear. I'm very grateful for your
newsletter. It's really been a lifeline
to me. My process of shifting from
lesbian to bisexual has been slow,
lonely and painful--what I've read in
your newsletter has been almost my only
source of validation for my many thought
and feelings. Four years later I'm
seeing some big progress: I'm standing
up for myself when lesbian friends imply
that I'm heterosexual or deny that my
sexual preference is anything I could
"come out" about. I am no longer
feeling meek and guilty about being
bisexual, but rather righteously angry
when people invalidate me. I have also
just started to "come out" more, and to
experience how much that gives to those
I tell in a way that makes being
bisexual feel personally and politically
purposeful in the same way being lesbian
did. That feels really good!! This is
such a deep and involved process.
Thanks for your support!

Oceanlight

Dear BBWN

Hi! I'm sorry that we cannot offer you
any money for a subscription to your
newsletter. The Gay and Lesbian
Helpline has no budget. We do refer
many of our callers to your organization
and will continue to do so. Your
newsletter allows us to keep our
resources up-to-date. Thank you for the
newsletter, your work and your
commitment.

Sincerely,

Laura J. Schauben, Director
The Gay and Lesbian Helpline



SPEAKERS BUREAU ACTIVE THIS FALL

Our Bisexual Speakers' Bureau has been more active
this fall than ever before. We have increased our list
of poetntial speakers to 18 (10 women and 8 men), and
have been doing lots of speaking engagements. Some
of the places we have made our presence known are:
9/28 Brandeis University (through Gay & Lesbian
Speakers Bureau [GLSB])
10/15 WALE (radio talk show in Providence, RI)
10/19 "The Group" at the Gay & Lesbian Services
Center in Boston
11/1 U. Mass, Boston
11/6 Boston University
11/8 Harvard University
11/8 Tufts University
11/8 Wheaton College (through GLSB)
11/15 Clark University (through GLSB)
11/18 Haverford College, Philadelphia PA

If you are interested in learning more about the
Speakers' Bureau, or think you might be able to get
an employer or school or other organization to invite us
to come speak, please call BIS-MOVE and leave a
message for Robyn.

--submitted by Robyn Ochs

WHAT WE GET IN THE MAIL

Every month we receive large quantities of mail, including newsletters from other bisexual organizations. During our regular evening office hours, which will be Monday evenings beginning in January, you will be able to stop by our office at 338 Boylston Street to check these great resources out for yourself. Among the newsletters we received recently are:

From Boston:

BBMN NEWS: The Monthly Newsletter of the Boston Bisexual Men's Network

From Western Massachusetts:

VALLEY BISEXUAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

From Chicago:

BILINES: Action Bi Women's Newsletter

From the University of Connecticut:

BiGALA: 'The Sometimes Publication of the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association of the University of Connecticut



From Minneapolis:

BiFOCAL

From the New York City area:

NEW YORK AREA BISEXUAL NETWORK NEWSLETTER

NEW YORK BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP NEWSLETTER

From Seattle:

NORTH BI NORTHWEST

From Washington, DC:

B: Biwomen and Bimen's Network Newsletter

BIWAYS

National:

BISEXUALITY: News, Views and Networking

From the Netherlands:

BI-NIEWS



PINK

From Wellington, New Zealand:

BI-LINES: A Newsletter of the Wellington Bisexual Women's Community

OTHER PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

We also receive:

OFF OUR BACKS

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (from Hawaii)

--submitted by Robyn Ochs



A LAST MINUTE LETTER

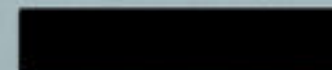
Dear BBWN:

I spoke to Stephanie Berger on the phone in Melbourne, Australia and we made plans to meet in Sydney (where I live) next week. It will be wonderful to see someone from the network 'down under'! Now I'm curious, what is it about newsletter editors and Australia??

It's been a rough year for me here, so far away from network friends. Now I understand the letters I used to receive to the newsletter from people far from Boston that shared their feelings of isolation. It's very lonely without old friends.

At Christmas, Andrew (my friend/lover/husband) and I will be back in Boston from December 15 to January 4. We will be staying at my parent's place on Mass. Ave. in Cambridge (phone number is in the phonebook). Friends--please get in touch--I'd love to see you all. Do be discreet on the phone--but not in person! I can't wait!

love,



P.S. Good luck to your new editors!

(a note from the current editor--thanks, [redacted]--I can use all the luck I can get! I received a card from Ms. Berger the other day--she promises us an article soon. We miss both of you!!)

IT'S LIKE "WOW"!

A social group for gay men, lesbian and bisexuals is forming in Waltham, to be named WOW--Way Out in Waltham. The first meeting will take place in January: the date, time and place are TBA. Call Jennifer at 893-0361 for more information.



PAPER ON BIS AND WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

Batya Weinbaum is circulating a theoretical psychoanalytic discussion paper on bisexuality and its negative response in the women's community. Is anyone interested in reading it? Send \$1.00 to:

B.S. Weinbaum
66 Green St.
Northhampton, MA 01060
or call 413-584-9232



SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

A new support group is forming for lesbians who have come out, or are coming out as bi. Group will meet Mondays from 6-8 pm. Call Pam at 868-7811 for info and location.

HOUSEHOLD WANTED

Alas, alack, the ancestral home is being sold. This warm & wonderful Biwoman is looking for a drug & smoke free, omnivorous co-op or semi-co-op of 3-4 other folks. Looking to move by 3/1/90. Please call Laura at (617) 566-1567. Discretion unnecessary.



CATHY MCDERMOTT, ACSW, LICSW

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

SUITE 83
875 MASS. AVE.
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

497-0539

BI-LINKS

A GROWTH GROUP FOR COUPLES

Being "Bi" is most often considered in regard to its problems. For married couples the problems are even more complex, especially if there are children involved. Relative to the prevailing culture, this may be so, but relative to building deep and supportive relationships, it doesn't have to be.

This article is a call for interested couples to join in the formation of a new group. The group will be devoted to the positive application of bisexuality. The goal will be to develop multiple, interlinked, interpersonal relationships supportive of the primary marriage bond. It is called a "growth" group rather than a support group to highlight an intention for growth and change rather than support for an unchangeable situation.

The definition of bisexuality that forms the basis for the group is the positive statement, "Bisexuality is the ability to LOVE people of both sexes". Love is a very powerful emotion. When combined with commitment, love produces the delight and security that many people seek as a foundation for living.

The requirements for membership are:
a. to be a married couple
b. to have the desire to extend that relationship to include others.

Anticipated group activities include: weekly rap sessions, life-transition support, and lots of social activities such as: picnics, beach walks, theater, dinners, trips, festivals, ski weekends...

If you are interested, please call MaryJoan or Bruce at (617) 944-7220.



HONOR ROLL



How do we thank thee...let us count the ways...yo, women--you're awesome! If I left anyone out, I will personally do penance by taking them out to lunch.

HONOR ROLL

Marge L.
Charnan B.
Martha C.C.
Stephanie B
Sue W.
Claire M.
Laura S.
Marjorie B.
Sharon G.

Lynn L.
Marcia D.
Pam L.
Robyn O.
Lucy F.
Heidi F.
Ann G.
Liz H.
Jackie S.

ONGOING:

First SUNDAYS of each month: BISPACE meetings 8-10 pm at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 338 Newbury St. Informal gatherings to discuss bisexual issues--open to men and women. Call BIS-MOVE for more info.

TUESDAYS: BISEXUAL WOMEN'S RAP GROUP 7:30-10 pm at the Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square. All women welcome. Call the Women's Center for weekly topics at 354-6658.

WEDNESDAYS: BOSTON'S ALLIANCE OF GAY & LESBIAN YOUTH (BAGLEY) meetings. New folks at 6 pm; separate women's and men's issues groups 6:45 pm; general meeting, 7 pm. All mtgs are held at 35 Bowdoin St. Boston. BAGLEY is open to all interested youth ages 22 and under. For more info call 354-6658.

WEDNESDAYS: ALL-ANON GROUP FOR BISEXUAL ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS 7:30 pm at Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency entrance). For more info & directions call Marge 259-1559.

Second WEDNESDAYS of each month: GAY COMMUNITY NETWORKING BREAKFASTS 8 am at Club Cafe (corner of Columbus Ave. & Berkeley Sts.). Breakfasts are free. Call 437-5870 for dates and questions.

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DEC 3 (Sun) Happy B-Day Laura Sachs!

DEC 3 (Sun) **BI-SPACE**. A place for all Bis to meet and talk. Very informal--no agenda or topic. 8 PM. \$2:00 donation to cover costs. Sponsored by ECBN. Community Center, Rm. 203, 338 Newbury St. Boston.

DEC 4 (Mon) **BBWN Introductory Meeting**. 7:30 PM. Women's Ctr., 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge. All women welcome. Call 247-6683 for more info.



DEC 8 (Fri) **The Oxymorons** with Marcia Diehl, Kate Dobroth, Jeff Fried and Doug Brandt. Modern Times Cafe, Cambridge. \$5.00. Call 354-8321 for more info.

DEC 9 (Sat) **Boston Gay and Lesbian Contra Dance**. Christmas English Country Dance. 8-11 PM. First Church of Jamaica Plain. \$5.00. Call 729-9206 for more info.



DEC 13 (Wed) **BICEP--Bisexual Committee Engaging in Politics**. Works for greater visibility and awareness of bisexual issues in gay and straight communities. Call BIS-MOVE for more info.

DEC 14 (Thurs) **Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau Meeting**. 7 PM. 1st half-general business; 2nd half-SOCIAL/PARTY TIME!! Robyn's house. Call 354-0133 for more info.

DEC 15 (Fri) **Come Out Dancing at "On Broadway"**--a smoke-free, alcohol-free dance spot. 880 Broadway, Somerville. Call BIS-MOVE for more info.



DEC 16 (Sat) **BBWN/BBMN Monthly Dim Sum Brunch**. Meet at the arch in Chinatown at 10:45 AM. Cost is \$6-8 per person. Men and women welcome. Call BIS-MOVE for more info.

DEC 18 (Mon) **Non-newsletter Volunteer Night and Coordinating Committee Meeting**. 7 PM at Robyn's. Call BIS-MOVE for more info.

DEC 18 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR FEB/MARCH NEWSLETTER**. All articles which need typing/formatting must be received by this date.

DEC 23 **HAPPY CHANUKAH!!!**

DEC 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**



DEC 29 (Fri) **CHANUKAH PARTY!** 8 PM. We'll provide the latkes, you bring other food and drinks. Call Sue and Margery at 437-0242 for RSVP/info.

DEC 31 (Sun) **ROCK AGAINST SEXISM Tea Dance**. 6 PM. Non-Sexist music at 1270 Boylston St, Boston. \$2.00 donation.

JAN 1, 1990--HAPPY NEW BI-DECADE!!



JAN 20 (Sat) **Monthly Dim Sum Brunch**. See DEC 16 for details.

JAN 22 (Mon) **BBWN COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING**. New time and location! 8-11 PM at the Community Ctr, 338 Newbury St, Boston. All women welcome. Call BIS-MOVE to confirm location.

JAN 28 (Sun) **ROCK AGAINST SEXISM Tea Dance**. See DEC 31.

JAN 29 (Mon) **VOLUNTER NIGHT** to stuff the Feb/March newsletter. New time and location! 6 PM at the Community Ctr., 338 Newbury St, Boston. Call BIS-MOVE to confirm location. This is a good time--Don't miss it!

FEB 2-4 (Fri-Sun) **Maine Bi People's Network Annual Ski Weekend**. Call the MBPN at 207-766-5572 for more info.



FOR FUTURE PLANNING: June 1990 International Bisexual Conference, sponsored by BI-POL. San Francisco, CA. For more info write: BI-POL, 584 Castro St, Box 422, SF, CA 94114.